THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8.
MOFUSSIL .....13-4.

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY.

MR. HENRY PEASE, of Darlington, has offered a premium of fifty pounds for the essay best calculated to show the evils of the use of tobacco, and especially of juvenile smoking, physically, socially, and morally; and to impress on ministers of religion, educators of youth, parents, and Christians generally, the importance of doing their utmost, both by example and precept, to oppose the practice. It is not impossible that a part of Mr. Pease's well-intentioned prize may ultimately find its way to the tobacconist.

WE LEARN that a Conference of Delegates of those German States which possess a seaboard will take place shortly for the object of establishing a Common Court of Inquiry into maritime disasters. It is expected that this consultation will lead to the establishment of a German Board of Trade, similar to the one existing in England, which will operate for the Empire at large. Since the exclusion of Austria from the German Confederacy, and the annexation of Schleswig-Holstein and Hanover to the Prussian Kingdom, the German States possessing a seaboard are composed, besides Prussia, of Oldenburg and Mecklenburg, to which the Hanse-towns, Hamburg, Bremen, and Lu-beck, though situated a little more inland, might be added on account of their maritime connection. Next to England and the United States, Germany has, for some time past, had the most considerable merchant fleet in the world.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London *Examiner* relates the following: "In 1840 it was the custom in Dublin for a military band to play in the principal square of that city on Sunday afternoon, and all the labouring classes used to attend regularly with their wives and children respectably dressed, and passed a happy Christian day. The Puritan party, however, got it put a stop to as being ungodly, and what was the consequence? Those labouring men left their wives at home and went to the public-houses, got drunk, and wife-beating and violence increased twenty-fold, and now drunkenness is so bad in Ireland that a movement is on foot to close the public-houses altogether on Sunday, and so inflict a great hardship on the respectable classes. "Look on that picture and on this" and say which would most please Him who said" the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."

A DREADFUL railway accident occurred at Abbott's Ripton, near Huntingdon, which caused the loss of 13 lives and severe injuries to about 20 persons. The signals being obscured by a snowstorm, the up-Scotch express dashed into a shunting coal train, and soon afterwards the down-Scotch express came into collision with the scattered carriages of the other train, causing additional deaths and injuries. The Russian Ambassador and Lord Colville were among the passengers who escaped unhurt. A son of Mr. Boucicault, the actor and dramatist, was killed.

THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE of the Privy Council have delivered judgment in the appeal of "Keet v. Smith," overruling the decision of the Judge of the Arches Court (Sir R. Phillimore), and deciding that the title of "Reverend" was not an exclusive right of the Established clergy, and that a faculty ought to issue granting permission for a Wesleylan Minister to be described as "Reverend" on the tombstone of his child.

MRS. STEWART, known in the United States as "Mother" Stewart, and a leading lecturer in furtherance of the "Whisky War," has arrived in England, and is about to commence a temperance campaign throughout the country.

A BONAPARTIST Association, entitled the Conservative National Committee, has issued a manifesto, announcing that it will support Marshal MacMahon until the expiration of his term of office, after which it will demand an appeal to the people to determine the future form of Government in France.

THE ITALIAN ULTRAMONTANES propose to celebrate on the 29th of May next the seventh centenary of the defeat of Frederic Barbarossa at Legnano. The 24 towns which shared in the victory are invited to take part in the celebration, and a deputation is to go to Rome to testify their faith, gratitude, and hope to Pius IX.

TUESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY.

IN GIVING AN ACCOUNT of the Prince of Wales' reception at Lahore the *Times* Special Correspondent says: "It would rather have astonished members of an English Town Council to have seen these Punjabees in turbans of the finest tissue, gold-brocaded gowns and robes, coils of emeralds, rubies, pearls round their necks, finer than any Lord Mayor's chain I ever saw."

THE FOLLOWING PHOTOGRAPHS of the Native Chiefs are from the pen of Dr. Russel, which occur in his description of the reception of the Native Princes at Government House in Calcutta by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales:

The Maharajah of Puttiala.—The Maharajah of Puttiala is son of the man who did England good service in the time when the road between Delhi and the Punjab was one of vital importance, by keeping it clear and helping us in a most substantial fashion. He is about 30 years of age, and rather a fine-looking man. A very clever Oriental milliner and an experienced jeweller combined might give an idea of the splendour of these Chiefs in dress and ornaments. Puttiala, however, was not one of the finest by any means, and yet, he was as a friend of mine said, "like a flash of lightning in Storr and Mortimer's." "The Maharajah made a very low and yet dignified salaam to the Prince, who bowed, took his hand, and led him to the sofa at the feet of Wellington, where he took his place with the Maharajah on his left, the Political Officer (Tupper) being next the Maharajah to interpret. The conversation lasted eight or ten minutes, and the Prince referred in it to the services of Puttiala in 1857."

The Maharajah of Holkar—Scarcely had the clatter of Puttialas horse-hoofs died away ere the guns announced the Maharajah Holkar of Indore, G.C.S.I. His Highness is a very tall large man, with aldermanic developments—at least, such as were attributed to Aldermen before they took to volunteering and athletic exercises. Holkar is very proud and punctilious, and there have been difficulties, it is said, about his precedence so great that the arrangements for a meeting here were attended with trouble. A certain interest is attached to Holkar's personal property, because of reports that he has a little treasury of five millions sterling stored up for a rainy day.

The Maharajah of Jodhpoor—The Maharajah of Jodhpoor came next—a most picturesque and wondrously eccentric-looking chief, followed by a splendid Sirdaree. His yellow head-dress, bound by cloth of gold round his brow, displayed an aigrette of diamonds and rubies of great beauty. What wealth of gems glittered all over his neck and breast I cannot describe. Small, well-cut features, a very bright eye, and whiskers and moustache and beard black and bristling, brushed upwards, gave him, at first sight, a fierce look, of which the sad, proud aspect of his face, on closer scrutiny, changed the character. But proud he is beyond the pride of the proudest, and it is related of him once that at a darbar, where chairs were placed for himself and the Maharajah of Oodeypoor and another Chief, he exclaimed, "Let Oodeypoor take which he pleases; I shall sit above him." The many-folded petticoats worn by the Maharajah were like the Albanian fustanelle, but descended nearly to his heels, and reminded one of the dresses of the dervishes. The petticoats were, however, looped up by a thick circular girdle a roll of cloth of gold which hung from the waist and gathered in his dress behind below the knees. His Sirdars were attired in a similar way and seemed to be very pleasant agreeable gentlemen; and they all went away in very good humour.

The Maharajah of Jeypoor—The Maharajah of Jaypoor, who drove up in a handsome carriage, drawn by four white horses, covered with trappings of cloth of gold, has the reputation of being one of the most enlightened of Indian Potentates. He has suffered from a malady in the eyes, which were saved by an operation, for which he paid many thousand rupees, and he wears spectacles, which somehow or other never seem to suit the costume of an Oriental very satisfactorily. His Sirdars were very splendid and peculiar-looking people.

The Maharajah of Cashmere—His carriage was preceded by two troopers, with brass helmets and cuirasses, which, unless I am deceived, belonged once to France, and defended the heads and bodies of Imperial Cuirassiers. Four more of these Life Guardsmen or "Blues" followed his carriage, in addition to his escort proper.

The Maharajah of Scindia—He is a handsome man, small in stature, but well made, and more quick in gait and manner than are Asiatic Chiefs generally. He and his Chiefs affect the Sikh head-dress—one of the most becoming of turbans, with its pretty, rakish set, and smart, defiant brush. As to his aigrette or plaque, one can only say that there seemed to be a light in the air as he turned his head in talking with the Prince. Some of his Sirdars were almost as brilliant, and, taking them all in all, the Cashmereas would have been as good as any of the States' representatives had not Scindia followed. Scindia looks a man all over. He delights in soldiering, and a very good judge told me he knew of very few officers in our service who could put a Division of the three arms through a good field-day so well as the Maharaja of Gwalior. Scindia is in many ways what is called a fine fellow. He wanted to lay out five laks of rupees as presents to the Prince, and was with difficulty reduced to half a lak (£5,000), and he is very liberal in all his ideas. He has gained good opinions; he has risked much by his fidelity to the British Government, and he certainly did not increase his authority among his own people by the discovery and surrender of a suppositious Nana Sahib—heir, in their eyes, of the Peishwas. The Scindia Sirdars were more eager than any of the others to see the Prince, and, whatever was said or done by him, he must have pleased them greatly.

The Begum of Bhopal.—Now came a very eccentric visitor—the Sultana Jehan, Begum of Bhopal. She is a G. C. S. I., a descendant of one of those families which were pushed into place and power, mostly by British influence, after the Pindarees were stamped down. At 12 a salute of 19 guns was fired, and a closed brougham drove up to the steps, to which the guard (now of the 40th relieving the 102th) presented arms. The door was opened and out stepped a shawl, supported on a pair of thin legs, and on the top of the shawl there was the semblance of a head, but face there was none, for over the head there was drawn a silk hood, and from it depended a screen of some sort of stuff, which completely concealed features which report says are not at all deserving of such strict retirement, though her Highness is nearly 40, which is old for India. With her was her daughter—a figure draped and dressed like the first, and quite as old to judge from appearances, though the lady is only 18. The ladies walked very slowly one after the other, and were led up the steps as if they were performing some remarkable feat. The Sirdars, among whom were two highly-jewelled lads, said to be her Highnesse's nephews, were dressed magnificently, and one fine old fellow, Jam Allahdeen Khan, was a very fine type of a Native Minister.

The Maharaja of Rewah.—The Maharajah is a very dignified personage, and is very well spoken of by all who know him. His Highness suffers from some skin malady, for which he uses a yellowish pigment on his face: but he has an agreeable look for all that, and he produces a most favourable impression on all who make his acquaintance. His family claims very high rank in point of ancestry and antiquity, and one daughter is married to the Rajah of Vizianagram.

THE ENGLISH PAPERS notice a marriage in high life, the prominent features of which are that the bride verges upon sixty and her husband has scarcely been dead a year. She is no less a person than the Dowager-Duchess of Montrose, whose son, the present Duke, has reached the mature age of 30. Her Grace was a leader of fashion in former days, a Venus always surrounded by a bevy of young male admirers. The happy bride-groom is Mr. Stirling Crawford, of considerable wealth, well-known on the turf, and some ten years the junior of the Duchess.

THE LORD BISHOP'S move for subscriptions to the Nurses' Fund has evidently collapsed. But Sir Richard Temple has come to the rescue. The Government of Bengal has sanctioned a monthly grant of Rs. 200 in aid of the Nurses' Fund. This charitable fund deserves the support of Government.

WE CONGRATULATE Assam on the acquisition of Mr. Geddes as its Judicial Commissioner *vice* Col. Agnew, who is about to retire.

THE INDIAN SPECIAL of the London *Daily News* says that the Anglo-Indians are vulgar swaggerers, who, with a provincialism more marked than that of Bradford or Glasgow, esteem themselves the salt of the earth. They are at once more mean and purse-proud than Manchester, yet "would have the casual stranger believe that Chowringhee is a millennian Republic, wherein, every man is as good as another, and perhaps a little better." Calcutta society, "broken into trumpery cliques, the mutual bitterness of which would be comical but that one cannot help deploring its pettiness, loftily aspires to give the tone to India, and talks with condescending pity of 'Mofussil manners." The Special of the *Echo* however draws a different picture altogether. He writes:

"Take it for all in all, there is no place I have ever been in where such agreeable society is to be had as in this country. It is as much more pleasant and pleasing than the average of English society in England as a dinner at the *Cafe Anglais*, *Brabant's*, or the *Maison Doree* is to tough beef steak and fiery sherry in a London so-called restaurant. I grant that when your retired Anglo-Indian gets home, more particularly if he belonged formerly to either of the Services, he is very often as pompous and peculiar a person as you will meet within the limits of the British Islands. But these moral defects seem to come to him late in life. But here he is almost invariably the pleasantest fellow alive; and his wife is just as agreeable, often more so. Then again—and this applies to the Civil Service, the Army, the merchants, barristers, railway officials and others—an Anglo-Indian is invariably a gentleman in the very best sense of the word. But the greatest contrast between England and India is to be found amongst the officials. In this country there is an absence of official pomposity which is very refreshing. An official in India receives and treats you as if you were a human being like himself, and not a mere biped whose passive mission in the world is to be snubbed by every one that receives Government pay."

Who shall decide when doctors disagree!

WEDNESDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY.

According to the tables of Ravenscroft, the present inhabitants of the earth number 1,263,574,860 in all; of these there are in Asia 872,456,200; in America 60,574,000; in Africa, 51,875,000 in the South Sea Islands, 3,990,000; in Europe 274,697,660. The population is thus divided according to religion:

816,915,200 Heathens.
6,216,700 Jews.
105,638,000 Mahomedans.
334,754,000 Christians

Of these last, there are as follows:
115000,000 of the Evangelical creeds.
140,000,000 of the Roman Catholics.
80,000,000 of the Greek Catholics.

MADAME TITIENS knows how to turn her notes into gold. She was recently offered £1000 to sing five

ngs at a special concert in America where she is now staying. This offer was at once declined with thanks.

A CURIOUS intoxicating plant is said to have been discovered in California, it is called the rattleweed and causes a species of madness to animals that eat it. A head of fifty wild horses on a ranche became perfectly demented after grazing in a field where this plant was growing. Though quite untamed, they allowed persons to approach them, would walk over a precipice without fear or hesitation, and had no idea of seeking water while they were dying of thirst.

IT IS feared that the Mediterranean mouth of the Suez Canal may be choked up in the progress of time. A current along the coast is forming a slow but steady deposit of river mud at Port Said, where the entrance is already affected. The western breakwater has been lengthened, but the remedy proves insufficient to arrest the processes of nature.

THE PRUSSIANS it is said have made every arrangement for the destruction of railways in time of war. Each squadron of cavalry is provided with the necessary tools, which are very simple, together with a set of directions. Supposing the destruction of a train to be thought desirable, a few troopers either blow up the line with a petard, or take out a piece with their tools. If they wish to hide the damage, they take a few bolts out, if possible, on a curve. The train will drive the rails outward, and then run off the line. In other cases they can tear up the rails in less than ten minutes; and then go on to make a bonfire with the sleepers, piling the rails on the top, so that they twist with heat, and become useless till forged again.

IT APPEARS that Lord Northbrook will not leave India without maturing a scheme of Army Reform. It is stated that the question of the reorganization of the Native Army is at present occupying the attention of the Viceroy's Executive Council. The recommendations of the Indian Government are to be sent to the Secretary of State before Lords Northbrook and Napier leave India in April next.

A CORRESPONDENT at Agra writes to the *Railway Service Gazette* the following account of a narrow escape of the Prince of Wales, of which we had heard nothing previously:—

"The Prince narrowly escaped being thrown down a dangerous khud on his journey to Gwalior. The carriage was drawn by four Artillery horses, the leaders shied at something and swerved, and were dragging the carriage to the edge of the khud, and in a few minutes more horses, carriage, and riders would have been rolled over. The Artilleryman who rode one of the shaft horses, with great presence of mind, dug his spurs into his horse's side, and by sheer strength of arm, turned the horse's head in the right direction; the impetus was so great, that the two fractious leaders were literally dragged away from the direction of the khud, and the hind wheels of the carriage just shaved the edge of it, and the inmates were saved. I understand that His Highness is fully aware of the danger he escaped, and he has shown his gratitude to the Artilleryman by a present, and there can be no doubt that the Commander-in-Chief will also, in some way or other, reward the man for his courage and cool presence of mind."

YAR MUHAMMAD KHAN has been appointed an Attache to the Agent to the Governor-General for Rajputana.

THE BOMBAY GAZETTE takes a very desponding view of the prospects of the chief commercial staple of Bombay, cotton. Our contemporary says: "From private sources we learn that Surats have become more unsaleable than ever, and there are now sellers of Good Machine Ginned Broach at 5*d.* and Good Fair Omrawuttee nothing below to be tendered at 4 15-16*d.* per lb. January-February shipment Canal. If business could be done even at these prices, however it would not be so bad, but there are absolutely no buyers, and it becomes daily more evident that large supplies of cheap American are rapidly driving a considerable proportion of East Indian quite out of consumption. What the ultimate result of this must be is not difficult to foresee. Prices of the lower trades will fall to a point at which it will not pay the cultivator to grow them, and the trade will decline to something nearer the extent it occupied before the American war."

THURSDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY.

WE GIVE a prominent insertion to the following letter from Moorshedabad:

"We are informed by the *Hindoo Patriot* of the 14th February 1876 that the Act for voluntary Registration of Mahomedan Marriages has come into force in the districts of Dacca, Mymensing, Rungpore, Backergunge, Bogra and Chittagong from the 15th instant, but we are sorry that this district has been excluded from it.

We beg to say that this district is inhabited by more Mahomedans than the others in which the bill has been introduced, when it is so, we do not understand why the Government have so unfavorably shut out the Mahomedans of this District from the benefit that is expected of it. We therefore request that the Government will feel inclined to include this district in the list.—

Sd. Mahomed Abdul Aleem Moulvie, Sd. Mahomed Abdul Kader, Sd. Hossein Bux, Sd. Abbass Ali, Sd. Emdad Hossein, Sd. Umjadally Khan and others."

FROM A communication received from the Secretary to the Jonye Committee, for celebrating the advent of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, we learn that on the 1st January last the people headed by the Committee, gave expression to their joy on the arrival of the Prince to Bengal by a public demonstration consisting of a triumphal procession proceeding from the Jonye Training School which was decorated with flags, evergreens and garlands of flowers, singing an anthem in Bengali, by feeding about 1000 poor people and distributing warm clothing to many others. The whole town of Jonye was decorated with triumphal arches, festoons of flowers, and flags, and there was an illumination and fire-works at night.

IT IS NOT CORRECT as was stated in the morning papers that Captain Lawler will be appointed to officiate as Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, during Mr. Lambert's absence. We hear that a Junior Civilian will be appointed.

OUR ASSAM CORRESPONDENT says that sometimes due facility is not offered to native passengers on board the steamers bound for Assam in cooking their food on the banks of rivers. He writes: "Some Hindu Passengers, per steamer "Burmah" on the 10th February 1876, had the misfortune to come down at Kaligunge to cook their food on the sands leaving their every thing on board. They one and all were left behind without any money or wearing apparel with them. Now imagine their difficulty! Before landing ashore the unfortunate passengers inquired of the captain as to how long the vessel would wait there and they were told what turned out to be a disappointment." We are afraid that the passengers must have overstayed their time. If not they ought to lodge a formal complaint to the steamer authorities or to the local Government.

THE PIONEER has the following:

"The discernment of the Bengali Ryot is at times astonishing. Witness the following extract from the report on canal irrigation in Midnapore:—"The Tidal Canal does not irrigate; its water is often salt or brackish, and there is no demand for it. It is not *now* intended that it should irrigate, and the sluices put in for the purpose have been abandoned." That is to say, our engineers proposed to Ram Buksh to irrigate his fields with salt tidal waters and made sluices to that end. But Ram Buksh showed that salt water is not good for paddy fields, and the engineers have profited by the wrinkle."

But who has had to pay the piper! Of course the poor tax-payer!

HIS GRACE the Duke of Buckingham has arrived in Calcutta. He has been visiting the institutions of the city. His Grace paid a visit to the High Court yesterday. Two Evening parties were held, one at Government House, and the other at Belevedere, and the leading men of the town were introduced to His Grace.

WE NOTICE with regret that the showers of last week which gladdened our hearts and lengthened the period of the cold weather by a few days were confined within a limited area. From the official weather report for the week ending 18th February last it appears there was rain only in Howrah and 24-Pergunnahs. At the sudder station of Nuddea only a few drops fell, at Hooghly there was a slight drizzling.

FRIDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY.

IN REPLY to our correspondent at Amptah we may mention that Gazetted officers as we believe are not permitted under the rules of Government to leave their station under any circumstances except on leave. But the practice is that such officers leave their stations on close holidays with the knowledge and permission of their official superiors.

A CORRESPONDENT from Amritsur writes to say that there were two *contretemps* on the occasion of the Princes' visit to that city, viz, the upsetting of a carriage of the Prince's suite by which two of the servants were injured, and sacrilegious intrusion of two Europeans into the Darbar, a sacred place, with boots on, covered with stockings. The last gave great offence to the Sikhs.

WE LEARN from a correspondent that the visit of the minor Raja of Durbhanga to his estate of Khurruckpore was hailed with great joy by his ryots, who accorded to him a princely reception.

THE ASSISTANT SURGEONS, once pupils of Surgeon General Fayrer, employed at Joypore presented the doctor with an address and a testimonial on his visit to that city.

WE HAVE received an interesting address on Farming in England and India delivered at the last College Reunion by Baboo Sreenath Dutt, lately a Gilchrist scholar, who learnt practical agriculture in England. The secret of the farming system of England and Scotland says the speaker lies in the motto—"Deep tillage deep drainage and plenty of muck." But deep tillage and deep drainage won't do for Bengal.

WE LEARN from a correspondent at Debrughur that there was a violent conflagration in that place, which consumed four hundred houses on the night of the 19th instant.

A GRADUATE scholar of the Hooghly College complains bitterly of the conduct of one of the Professors of that College for his general rudeness and coarse manner to his pupils, who are grown up young men. We would advise our correspondent to address the Principal on the subject.

A POLITICAL SOCIETY has been formed at Moorshedabad under the name and title of the "Moorshedabad Association." At its fourth sitting which took place on the 23rd ultimo there was a warm discussion of the Bill on the management of Joint-Estates. We have made from one of the vernacular papers a summary of the weighty arguments advanced in that discussion. It will be found amongst the extracts from the vernacular papers.

WE HAVE RECEIVED from Baboo Soshee Bhooshun Bose, late Deputy Post Master of Nurrail, the papers relating to his trial and conviction on a charge of criminal house trespass and using criminal force and his subsequent removal from office because of that conviction. The Baboo considers himself aggrieved both by the conviction and removal from service and we are asked to ventilate his grievance. We fail to see how we can do it. The evidence for the prosecution was conclusive and nothing was advanced to rebut the same—of course there was conviction and fine. We cannot blame the postal authorities for the action taken in the matter.

SATURDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY.

IT IS STATED that Lord Northbrook's new title will be Earl Baring.

LORD NORTHBROOK has contributed the munificent sum of Rs. 10,000 in aid of the education of the "poor whites."

WE ARE GLAD to see it stated that Mr. Dosabhoy Framji and Mr. Nana Moroji will be made C.S.Is. Both of them have well-earned this honor.

AS A TRIBUTE to the memory of the late Mr. Atkinson the colleges and schools in Calcutta were closed on Wednesday last. A circular has been issued from the Director's office to the authorities of the Mofussil colleges and schools to close them for a day for the same purpose. We expected a Resolution of Government *in memoriam*.

WE ARE REQUESTED to announce that the nineteenth Anniversary Meeting of the Burrabazar Family Literary Club will be held at No. 80, Cross Street Burrabazar, at the premises of the late Babu Ram Mohun Mullick, on Friday the 3rd March at 9 P. M., when a lecture will be delivered by Miss P. A. Brink M. D. on Women as Physicians. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor will preside. The public are invited to attend.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to us as follows:—

"The following is a hard case, and we hope Government will take it into its favorable consideration. Under the present *regime* every department under the administration of the Government of Bengal receives due attention from Sir Richard Temple, and instances might be quoted in which His Honor has advanced the prospects of the Native Officers in the several Departments. The services of the Native Engineer Babu Heera Lal Mitter whose case we allude to have probably been not brought to the notice of Sir Richard Temple, and that is the reason why we think that that distinguished officer has not been thought of. Babu Heera Lal Mitter is a self-made man; he has learned the difficult science of engineering not by studying in any college but solely by self-study. He had served 14 years in the Jubbulpore and East Indian Railway (Chord Line), when his superior merit attracted the attention of Government, and he was asked to accept a post under it in the Public Works Department. Previous to this he was receiving Rs. 500 per month, and declined an offer of a similar salary in the Punjab Railway for the post of an Assistant Engineer of the 1st grade in the Public Works Department on a salary of Rs. 450 per month with prospects of promotion. We will presently see how Government has dealt with him.

In 1866 or 1867 while building the Kutnee Bridge near Murrowra on the Jubbulpore Line Babu Heera Lal had attracted the notice of Sir Richard Temple, then Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, and he was introduced to him by Richard Brandell Esquire. In August 1869 Babu Heera Lal joined the Public Works Department as an Assistant Engineer First Grade and was posted to the Dehree Division. He was at first placed in charge of a tramway and quarry, but was put in charge of the *Western half* of the Sone Anicut in November 1869. The *Eastern half* of the Anicut was under charge of Mr. Lovesay a temporary Assistant Engineer of the 3rd Grade who commenced operations in December 1869. During 1871 it was found that the Anicut and Head Works were too much for two Assistant Engineers, and a Middle Anicut Sub-Division was created, and one Mr. Williamson (2nd Grade Assistant Engineer) was placed in charge of it. In March 1871 it was found that the Middle Anicut works were not so pushed on as to complete the foundation block before the freshes broke out; and Colonel Haig (Joint Secretary, to the Government of Bengal in the Public Works Department Irrigation Branch) accompanied by the Superintending Engineer of the Sone Circle asked Babu Heera Lal one afternoon whether he would be able to take charge of the Middle Anicut works in addition to his own. Although it was a very difficult work he did not decline it. In April 1871 he took charge of the Middle Anicut Sub-Division, and carried on block sinking from morning till 10 or 11 o'clock night daily for nearly 2 months until the last block was sunk in the middle of June i. e. before the freshes broke out in the river. In this instance a season's work was finished in 2½ months. After completion of

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the above named works Babu Heera Lal was recommended for promotion to the 4th Grade of Executive Engineers in 1871, and since that time he has been recommended for promotion every half year up to date, for important services done, but without effect, while Government has been very liberal in elevating the European Assistant Engineers.

Thus, while employed in the Anicut Mr. Lovesay referred to above received the following promotions .—

1*st*—was made permanent in the 3rd Grade
2*nd*—from 3rd to 2nd Grade
3*rd*—from 2nd to 1st Grade
4*th*—from 1st Grade Assistant Engineer to temporary 4th Grade Executive Engineer.

Mr. Williamson, above referred to, received the following promotions ;—

(1) From 2nd Grade to 1st Grade Assistant Engineer
(2) From 1st Grade Assistant Engineer to 4th Grade Executive Engineer (temporary)

Babu Heera Lal had completed his portion of the works cheaper *i. e.* 80,000 Rupees below the estimate, and a season earlier, and yet his services have been overlooked.

In April 1871 Lord Mayo had visited the Anicut works, and was very much pleased with the manner in which Babu Heera Lal carried on his work; and in February 1873 Sir George Campbell visited the same works and the Superintending Engineer introduced the Babu to his Honor as one of the best Engineers in the circle'. The Lieutenant Governor was pleased to mention that he was specially satisfied with the Baboo's work. Again in December 1873 Lord Northbrook visited the works done by Babu Heera Lal, and went along the Anicut to Burroon and noticed the difference in progress between the *western* and *eastern* half of the Anicut.

From the above it will be seen that Babu Heera Lal is not only an able Engineer, and has satisfied his official superiors from the Executive to the Chief Engineer, but has also obtained approbation from the successive Lieutenant Governors and Governors General for the satisfactory manner in which he has performed his work. I may mention here that Babu Heera Lal is the only Native Engineer in the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department whom Government has placed in charge of a Sub-Division, and although he has been recommended more than 8 times for promotion, yet he has not been promoted."

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

London, 18*th February*, The Prime Minister, answering to several questions in the House of Commons last night, said that the choice of new titles was a prerogative of rhe Queen. Mr. Lowe and Mr. Forster both objected to the title of Empress as despotic. The merchants' Shipping Bill passed a second reading. Mr. Jacob Bright has been elected a Member of Parliament for Manchester. There was a disastrous collision in the Channel yesterday, the Hamburg Steamer *Franconia* collided with the Steamer *Strathclyde* on her voyage to India off Dover. The latter vessel sank. Twenty-eight passengers, in addition to the Captain, were saved.

Paris, 22*nd February*. The Senatorial elections have resulted in a triumph for the Moderate Republicans. Of the 225 Senators elected by the Departments, only 61 are Monarchists and 55 are Bonapartists. M. Buffet defeated in no less than four places, has resigned his post as Minister of the Interior.

Cairo, 22*nd February*. A CONVENTION has been signed by Colonel Stokes and Baron Lesseps for a pogressive reduction of the Suez Canal dues to three francs per ton. The arrangement is to spread over a period of eight years the Canal Company agreeing to spend a yearly sum of one million francs in improvements. The statutes of the Company have been altered, the increasing the number of Directors to 24, so as to admit of the three English Directors being placed on the board.

Madrid, 23*rd February*. THE Alfonsists have stormed and captured Tolosa in the province of Guipuzcoa, The Carlists are flying to the French Frontier.

St. Petersburgh, 23*rd February*. Intelligence received here from the Russians in Khokand announces that the Russian troops entered the Capital of Khokand on the 20th instant.

Penang, 18*th February*. It is reported that two of Mr. Birch's murderers have been captured by friendly Malays at Lambor, near Banoa Bharu. Their names are Lepatum and Gonda. The troops are quiet. Ex-Sultan Ismail and Rajah Lila are being tracked, and their capture is considered probable in Quallah territory.

Rangoon 19*th February*. The trial of the conspirators concerned in the recent plot has been concluded. Twenty-two have been convicted and six acquitted. The leader, Moung Bwah, has been sentenced to twenty-one years' imprisonment, eighteen others, to ten years, and three others, less guilty, to six months.

Paris 24*th February*.—The resignation of M. Buffet having been accepted, he will be succeded in the Ministry by M. Dufaure, the Minister of Justice. In other respects the Cabinet remains unchanged.

Cairo. 24*th February*.—Late advices from Massowah state that the Egyptian army, having occupied the province of Lamasin, met the forces of King John near Adowa. The result was a victory for the Egyptians. The Gallas tribes have submitted to the Khedive.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals : 1. Report on the charitable dispensaries of Bengal for 1874-75. 2. Report on the administration of the Registration Department for 1874-75. 3. Thacker and Co's Bengal Directory for 1876. 4. Kumalakant's Duptar or records of Kumalakant Part I. By Bunkim Chunder Chatterjea, reprinted from the *Bunga Dursana*. 5. Dhourjo-Prosutty or *Pruttootpuana Muttitwa* or Presence of Mind—a discourse read at the last College Reunion, by Harry Nath Serorutna. 6. Report on the Jeypore School of Arts for 1875. 7. Bandrami or a Budget of wit and humour. First publication. 8. The Colonial Intelligencer. Vol. VIII. February 1876. 9. Gyanunkur Vol. IV. No. I. for Aghran 1282 B. S. 10. Register of Cholera cases treated gratis by Hem Chunder Bannerjea, Benares. 11. Journal of the National Indian Association.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1876.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

THE FIAT has gone forth. The Calcutta Municipal Bill is to be tinkered only. At last Saturday's sitting of the Bengal Council Sir Stuart Hogg moved that the Bill with the several memorials received be referred back to the Select Committee with instructions to revise the sections relating to Government control over the municipal corporation. He also at the same time announced that delegates from the public bodies, which have addressed the Council on the subject, would be admitted to the sittings of the Select Committee, and that the Justices would be allowed to be heard by Counsel by the Select Committee. A Native member suggested that the whole Bill should be referred to the Select Committee inasmuch as some of the memorials raised questions which affected the Bill as a whole. But the President would not entertain this proposal. His Honor said that the issue was as to the clauses referring to Government control, and that the Select Committee should therefore confine their attention to that part of the Bill alone. The Native member then asked whether in case the Government should not be prepared to give the Municipal corporation full liberty of action, the Select Committee would be competent to consider the principle of the Bill, and throw out the elective system, if necessary. The President said at once that the principle of the Bill should not be discussed by the Select Committee, that they should consider only the provisions relating to Government control, and so far amend the Bill as may be necessary in giving effect to amendments in those provisions. The same Native member proposed that the sittings of the Select Committee should be thrown open to the public with a view to secure the presence of reporters. Sir Stuart Hogg, Mr. Bell, and Mr. Paul were not personally opposed to that motion; but the President said that the matter should be left to the Select Committee for decision. The Advocate General remarked that the Council Chamber would not accommodate the visitors if the meetings of the Select Committee were thrown open to the public, but the Native member explained that his object was to obtain admittance for the reporters of the press.

The Native member referred to complained that the Council had not been allowed an opportunity to discuss the principle of the new constitution at all. If was on the 27th November without any previous notice the Hon'ble the President made a statement setting forth his views "on the subject of the future constitution of the municipality of Calcutta." The members were not called upon to discuss it, the Council being directed to proceed to other business as soon as the statement was concluded. Then at the next sitting of the Council, that is on the 4th December, after the business of the Council was over, and when the members had left their seats, the President asked them to stay and proposed that "the substance of the proposals which he had the honor to make at the last meeting of the Council on the constitution of the Municipality be drafted into shape and immediately referred to the Select Committee." It was then nearly 3 P. M., and the members dispersed by giving their assent to the proposal for a reference to the Select Committee. In Select Committee, the principle of the Bill was not open to discussion, it being held that they were bound to put into shape the "substance of the proposals" of the President. The non-official members of the Select Committee did not agree, and recorded a dissent stating their reasons at some length why they did not consider the proposed constitution with the conditions and restrictions imposed effective for a satisfactory management of the municipality. On the 29th January the report of the Select Committee was laid before the Council, and a question was raised for a discussion of the principle of the Bill, but the President ruled that the Council should proceed to a settlement of the clauses of the Bill, and this was accordingly done. Of course in considering the clauses the principles involved in them were discussed at this sitting of the Council, but there was no opportunity given for a discussion of the general principle of the Bill. An attempt was made on last Saturday for the consideration of the principle of the Bill, but no vote was taken upon it. It is not to be even considered by the Select Committee, the President declaring as we have stated above that the question of the principle of the Bill is not to be raised by them.

It was pointed out at the last sitting of the Council that there were only two questions in respect of which the Government might claim a voice in the management of the Municipal Fund, viz., the Loans and the Police. But the provisions of the Bill are quite sufficient for both the purposes. If due provision be not made for the payment of interest upon the loans and for contribution to the sinking fund for the repayment thereof, the Government might move the High Court and get out a *mandamus* requiring the Commissioners to provide the necessary supply. The Advocate General said that it would be a tedious process; with due deference to him we doubt whether it is after all a tedious process. Then as he himself admitted no body of honorable gentlemen would so far forget their duty as not to discharge the debt they owe. As for the Police we readily admit that the municipality must pay for it; the town cannot remain without a Police, and the Government, which as the chief executive authority is responsible for the protection of the lives and properties of the people, must secure the due payment of its wages, and in so far its control over the municipal fund would be legitimate. At the same time the Municipal Commissioners, as representatives of the rate-payers, ought to have a voice in the regulation of Police expenditure, but this the Bill denies. In all other matters the Municipal Commissioners ought to have a perfect freedom of action. There might have been some pretext for Government to interfere, if the great sanitary questions had been open to discussion. But such is not the case. The principles of the two most important questions of drainage and water-supply have been settled and all that the Commissioners have now to do is to carry out the details, and who are likely to be the best judges of the details—the Government, which has no knowledge of details, or the Commissioners, whose duty it is to examine these details daily ? The question of taxation depends upon the determination of these details, and if the Government should claim power in dictating with regard to these details, then why enact the farce of a so-called representative institution ? It is here where the shoe pinches—it is here where we say that the Bill is not honest. If dictation is to be the rule, then election cannot but be a sham. If the Government is to hold its power *in terrorem* over the Commissioners, then there can be no independence, no self-government.

Our own opinion upon the elective system is clear. We candidly confess that we have doubts and misgivings as to whether situated as Calcutta is an elective system will work smoothly, but when the Government offers the privilege, it is not for us, who advocate the interests of the people, to refuse it. But we want a reality, and not a sham. We cannot understand that sort of representative system, which centres all effective power in the hands of Government. If the Government is not prepared to trust the representatives of the people with full power, why then palter with them? We hate half-measures, and it is because the new Bill is even much less than a half measure, we are opposed to it. Can that be considered a sufficient measure of self-government, which makes the executive the master of those, who will be appointed to govern the town ? Why should the Government have the power of appointing and removing the Chairman of the Commissioners ? It may be said that the Government is not prepared to surrender its power in this respect, if so, then why not let things remain as they are ? Why talk of self-government when from the constitution of the Government in this country, it is not prepared to concede it as a reality ? This sort of proceeding is simply trifling with the public. The present system of municipal government under the cir-

cumstances was the only feasible solution of the position, and we do maintain that it has not broken down. If it has not worked to the satisfaction of the rate-payers in all respects, it is simply because the Government has not worked honestly in regard to it. If it had not from time to time swamped the independant and working Justices by nominating men, who have since passed into a proverb as *apka wastas*, and if it had not pulled the wires from behind whenever there has been an important issue between the independant Justices and the executive, there would not have been those misunderstandings and squabbles, which have sometimes scandalized Calcutta Society. The Government being thus chiefly responsible for the mischief, it now seeks to shift its own responsibility by victimizing a body, which left to itself would not have been found wanting.

The history of the present Bill, however teaches one moral. It shows that public opinion in Calcutta is not dead. The Bill has moved the Calcutta community as one man. It has proved a fresh bond of union between the Europeans and Natives. The daily press has done its work nobly, and we are particularly glad that our contemporary of the *Englishman* has at last awoke to the gravity of the situation. The spirit stirring articles which it has published last week will doubtless have their effect; we only wish that our contemporary had come out a little earlier. But this combined agitation has done some work. It has for a time arrested the progress of the Bill. The Government has receded from the unfortunate position in which it had placed itself by pressing on the Bill without taking any notice of the memorials laid before the Council. According to the notice given at the previous meeting the Bill was to have been passed last Saturday, but that decision has been revoked. The Bill has been recommitted to the Select Committee. Then the memorials had been previously treated as so much waste paper, but now they will be seriously considered by the Select Committee. The Council did not give the Justices any opportunity to say their say, but now these will be allowed to be heard by Counsel. All these concessions imply that the Government is not wholly imperious to public opinion. But they are not enough. If the reference to the Select Committee ends in a tinkering of those clauses only which relate to Government control, the public will not feel much thankful to the Council. We are strongly of opinion that the whole Bill ought to be overhauled, and that if the Council is not prepared to give a really effective measure of self-government, it ought to be withdrawn. Sir Richard Temple we believe now sees the mistake he committed by announcing changes in the constitution without sufficiently considering the consequences. To tell the truth he took a leap in the dark. We sincerely sympathize with him in his present position. He doubtless meant well, but he did not rightly guage public opinion in Calcutta. We confess we were not a little surprised that a shrewd observer as he is he should have allowed himself to be tossed on the waves of local politics without a chart or a compass. He did not evidently descry the direction to which he was drifting. And what is the result? We have the sad spectacle of a Governor, who gave great promise of future excellence, placed in direct antagonism with the most intelligent and advanced community in the capital. Is such a position desirable and is it calculated to promote his usefulness as the ruler of the country? How grieved must be the retiring Viceroy, who always treated Sir Richard as his right hand man, to see this break-down? How surprised must the new Viceroy be to see this conflict between the Governor of the first province of the Indian continent and the intelligent and enlightened public of the capital? How disappointed must be the Secretary of State to find a state of chronic warfare between the rulers and the ruled in Calcutta? And what must be the feeling in Parliament, supposing that Mr. Fawcett or some other Indian friend in the House of Commons should draw attention to this state of things in the capital of Her Majesty's empire in the East? We have still faith in Sir Richard Temple's sagacity and versatility. It could not be expected that he would at once surrender the Bill to public remonstrance, though it was most earnest and respectful, but the recommitment of it to the Select Committee shews that he is not inexorable. The evidence, which we hope will be laid by the delegates of public bodies and the Counsel of the Justices, on Saturday next, may yet satisfy him that the present Bill will not meet the reasonable wishes and aspirations of the Calcutta community, and that the best thing he can do under the circumstances is to abandon it altogether. We do not think that the Government will at all compromise itself by adopting such a course. The administration of the municipality is an affair of the town, and let that system be adopted, which the better-informed of the population may want. If the Government has any doubt as to the real opinion of the rate-payers, the Select Committee have power to take evidence, and let them exercise that power. Sir Richard Temple has himself created the crisis, and it is in his power to quell it.

THE EXCHANGE QUESTION.

WITH reference to our article of last Monday on the exchange question in which we urged that in introducing a uniform silver currency for India and England it would not interfere with gold, nor cause any violent change in the primary medium of currency in England, the *Englishman* observes that without monetising silver it is not apparent how the new coins would help India to a better price for her silver. It would certainly be absurd to suppose that in proposing this measure we did not mean the monetisation of silver in England. It is only by monetising silver in England our suggestion can be realized, and when we say this, we mean that the new silver coin should have a wide range of operation. Of course we look to an enhancement of the value of our rupee coin; and rely upon reasons and contingencies fully detailed in our last issue for ensuring a re-action in the market value of silver.

Never was there an expansion of the media of circulation both in India and England so much needed as now. The old data and the theories based upon them, which once governed the commercial and monetary world, have virtually been upset by the economy of time and space introduced in every quarter of the globe by the power of science. It is therefore incumbent upon us to find out means for compensating those disadvantages, which have been rather unexpectedly brought upon us in our national negotiations.

In the *Times* of the 28th ultimo, which reached us last week we find under the head of "Money Market and City Intelligence" an able article on the question of silver, a portion of which we give below as bearing upon the subject under discussion:

"The continuous fall in the value of silver, and its effect, in combination with other influences, such as the depression in the Indian trade, upon the Indian exchange, engage from day to day more serious attention. On each occasion, for some time past upon which the India Council has allotted the fortnightly amount of Bills that are purchased by tender, the rate has declined. The fall is at once telegraphed to India, and the price of silver there declines, which again re-acts on the exchange, and by this see—saw process the one is incessantly dragging down the other, there being no counteracting influence of sufficient force in present circumstances. This depression in the exchange, it need hardly be said, is a serious matter, not only to the Indian Government, but to the large number of persons whose incomes are directly affected by the fall in the exchange value of the rupee. In the present reduced condition of the export Indian trade there is less money to be sent out, and hence the reason to some extent for the larger amounts drawn, especially at this time of the year, when there are heavy amounts of interest to be paid to the guaranteed stockholders, apart from the large amount in pensions, &c. paid to residents in this country. It is evident, likewise, that the further the exchange declines the larger is the amount to be drawn. The price of the metal had fallen considerably in July last as a result of its demonetization in Europe, of the large supplies afforded in the markets of France and Holland from Germany, and of the extraordinary production of the Californian and South American mines. Since then it has been very difficult to find a vent for any large amounts of silver This market has therefore had to look to spain and India as the chief buyers. The former has absorbed a considerable quantity but as there has been no revival in the Continental demand, the chief hope has been India."

The reader will thus observe that India is now the only place, which is looked to for the absorption of silver, which has gradually accumulated in Europe and elsewhere. We learn that the market here for both bar and sycee silver is buoyant and capable of taking the metal to any extent that might be offered for sale. But the question is how is it to be paid for. Gold is as scarce as ever, 24 carats fine being 18 Rs. 4 annas; and China Bar Pekin Rs. 18-2 annas. The only alternative left for India is the export of staples adapted for European markets.

In our last we noticed the most unfavourable aspect of the Export trade of England, which has established a balance against her. We have now to call the attention of the reader to the position of the same branch of trade as regards Bengal. In the last administration report of Behgal, we grieve to notice the approach of that trade to a rapid decline, with every probability of its settling down at no distant period to a similar balance of trade on this side, as will appear from the following figures extracted from the above report:

	Exports.	Imports.
	£	£
1872-73	29,908,937	17,986,994
1873-74	29,895,839	20,241,192
1874-75	28,628,262	25,109,952

It will be seen at once that in three years there was a falling-off in our exports of £1,280,675, while in the same period our imports rose from £18 to 25 millions, thus shewing an increase of £7 millions in imports.

The entire exchange question as now pending between this country and England turns upon the inability of India to meet England's requirements by her own staples. Placed in such a predicament what is India to do? A gold currency is next to impossible. In former days it was repeatedly tried in this country, and as often it failed. Another expedient proposed is the opening of a temporary sterling loan in England. In our humble opinion the eventuality of such a loan will in all probability be an accession to the numerous loans of the Indian Government now in the hands of stock-holders in England. Besides this it is opposed to true economy that loans should be opened for no other purpose than for paying dividends and interest of existing loans, which in effect would be paying a compound interest upon the subsisting loans.

For our part as we have already said we feel almost convinced that silver will sooner or later be dearer, and this conviction must have induced the Secretary of State to postpone further drawing upon India. The interests of India and England are equally at stake, and no time therefore we think should be lost to adopt some decisive measure in the interion to advance the cause of both. We may be mistaken in suggesting a uniform silver currency for England and India, but we have seen no proposal made which is calculated to solve the present difficulty. Some thing must be done; or the life-blood of India will be sucked out. A uniform silver currency for England and India we hold will restore that equilibrium, which has been now so seriously disturbed. Its adoption will certainly reduce the present abnormal rise in the value of gold, but it will not demonetise it. Let a healthy equilibrium between gold and silver be established, and the present depreciation of silver will be arrested.

MANCHESTER *Vrs.* INDIA.

A MOST able and exhaustive memorial was submitted by the Mill-owners' Association of Bombay to Sir Louis Mallet on the eve of his departure from India on the subject of the position and prospects of cotton manufacture in this country. Every word in it is well-weighed and full of truth. It is the best answer we have had the good fortune to read to the selfish demands of Manchester. The Association justly praises the commercial policy of the Government of India embodied in the Tariff Act of 1875 It takes its stand upon Lord Northbrook's exposition of the financial situation of the country and the policy of the Government laid before the Legislative Council in August last—an exposition which, it rightly observes, ought to be commended to the consideration of all thoughtful men who have the true interests of the people of India at heart. In considering new sources of taxation—and of these there is in India but little choice—Lord Northbrook is satisfied that a change from indirect to direct taxation would not even in a financial point of view, be desirable. "By the imposition," he says, "of a new excise duty on tobacco, or of direct taxation under the bets

arrangements that could be made to levy either, the people of India would, in my opinion, have to pay a larger sum than they would gain by the reduced cost of the articles which would be affected by the abolition of our customs duties." Again, he has "no hesitation in asserting that the political evil of giving up our customs duties, or a large part of them, and of imposing fresh taxes in their place, would be great. Whatever may be the objections to customs duties, they possess the advantages of being collected easily and paid without pressure. These advantages are of peculiar importance in India, where new taxes are particularly liable to occasion popular discontent. To substitute direct taxes or new excise duties for the customs duties which are now imposed upon foreign goods, seems to me to be a policy which would be contrary to the interests of the people of India, and which no statesman, with a knowledge of India and a sense of responsibility, could be found to propose." The Indian Tariff Act, 1875, which embodied this policy, conceding at the same time important remissions and reductions of taxation, by which trade generally has been relieved and agricultural production stimulated, the Association remarks, has been universally accepted in India as a measure calculated in an eminent degree to promote the interests of the people. The Association states that the total value of the Manchester trade with India in the year 1874-75 amounted to £19,387,270, being an increase of £1,600,000 on the trade of the previous year, and, with extending railway communication, it is reasonable to assume that the trade will go on increasing. Now, of all this trade only £800,000 to £900,000, yielding a duty of about £40,000, is exposed to competition from Indian manufactures; the entire remainder, amounting to upwards of 18 millions sterling, is a complete monopoly in the hands of the Manchester manufacturers. "All monopolies," the Association remarks, "operate, as regards prices, in favour of the producer and against the consumers; and, except in the very magnitude of the trade involved in this case, and the competition of the English manufacturers among themselves, there is every reason to suppose that, if the trade were relieved of taxation, the manufacturers, and not the Indian consumers, would be the persons immediately and principally benefited." The Association continues: "We say that, although the tendency would be to lower prices, yet as the monopoly is subject to no other competition than that of the English manufacturers among themselves, the Indian consumer would not for some time get the full benefit of the abolition of the duties. With regard to the Indian consumer, we believe that he is quite content to leave the protection of his interests in the hands of the Government of India, who, as the English manufacturers will probably themselves admit, is the most competent judge of his condition, and of the circumstances around him. But we desire here to protest against the encouragement given by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India to all this agitation, which would take the policy of the taxation of the country out of the hands of the Government of India, and mould it, regardless of every other consideration, so as to suit the interests of Manchester manufacturers." The Association points out that if the state of Indian Finance should admit of remission of taxes or duties, the duties on salt and sugar ought to go first. It justly observes, "we believe that the most enthusiastic free-trader will readily admit that taxes on the food of the people and on necessaries of life are, if duties can be abandoned, entitled to consideration before taxes on any other articles. The salt duty yields about 6 millions sterling. Salt is a necessary of life, and in India more than in any other country—it enters largely into the food of the entire mass of the people." Again: "The request of the English manufacturers for the repeal of the duties on imported piece-goods and yarns is generally based upon the benefits which it would confer on the Indian consumers; and in this view of the case, the repeal of the entire duty is demanded. Cheaper clothing is, no doubt an important object, but cheaper necessaries of life and cheaper food" particularly the food of the poorer classes, are more important still." The Association then combats most successfully the statement often repeated by Manchester that the duty on cotton goods is a protection to Indian manufactures. It thus categorically answers the objections of Manchester:

"The only disadvantages under which the English manufactures labour, are the duty and the comparatively higher price which they pay for the raw material. As the price which they pay for the raw material, in excess of the price at which the Indian manufacturers obtain it in Bombay, has been greatly misrepresented and exaggerated, we append to this address a table of the prices of Fair Dhollera ruling in the Bombay market about the middle of each month during the year 1875, extracted from the weekly Returns of Current Quotations published by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, with the charges which the English manufacturer would have incurred if he had purchased the cotton in the Bombay market. From this table it will be seen that, in the relative cost, the English manufacturer paid for the raw material, in 1875, an average percentage of 9·62 more than the Bombay manufacturer, the lowest percentage being 5·26, and highest 13 33.

On the other hand, the relative disadvantages under which the Bombay manufacturer labours are numerous, affecting him in every stage of his career, from the cost of the buildings to the production of the coarsest yarn. The much greater cost of erecting and working mills in this country, the want of skilled labour, the great inferiority of the workers, and the difficulty of improving or replacing machinery, are described in the memorial of the mercantile community of Bombay to His Excellency the Viceroy, dated the 7th October, and in our own memorial to His Excellency, dated the 9th September last, copies of which are hereto appended. With regard to the price of coal, the Bombay manufacturers are now obtaining it at Rs. 22, or £2-4-0 per ton—a price which may be taken as a fair average of years, and probably four or five times greater than the price which the English manufacturer pays. Whilst on this item, we beg respectfully to draw your attention to the following extract from the reply of Lord Salisbury to the deputation of the Manchester Chamber on 4th November 1874, as affording an apt illustration of the misconceptions which exist in England, even in the highest and best-informed quarters, not only as to the distances to be traversed in this country, but as to the state and the circumstances of the Indian cotton industry. Dilating on the disadvantages with which the Manchester manufacturer has to contend, His Lordship says:—"In India there is the raw material and the labour, which is cheaper, and, as regards all delicate manipulations of the hand, more skilful. There appears to be nothing wanting, except the coal and the capital. Well, I have just received papers which show that the great coal-field, which is closed to the cotton, might be calculated to yield 17 millions of tons at a depth of between 170 and 200 feet from the surface. If this is found to be correct, there would be nothing but capital wanted to establish not only in the island of Bombay, but in the mofussil, flourishing manufactories." The coal-field alluded to is that of Chanda in the Central Provinces, the nearest railway station to which is Hingunghat. Now, the distance from Hingunghat to Bombay is 510 miles, and the railway charge for conveying coal between these stations is, as ascertained at the G. I. P. Railway Company's offices, Rs. 22-2-8 per ton: so that the cost of the conveyance of this coal, from which the Bombay manufacturers are to derive so much benefit, is actually higher than what they are now paying for good Welsh coal itself, imported from England and delivered at their mills. But the using of Chanda coal will, in all probability, be attended with the further disadvantage of its burning quality being greatly inferior, as all other coal yet produced in India has proved, to that of English coal. The G. I. P. Railway Company, who use Nerbudda coal produced at Mopanee—about 556 miles from Bombay—find, we understand, that 3 tons of it are only equal in quality to about 2 tons of English coal; and Bengal coal, which occasionally finds its way to Bombay when the rate of freight from Calcutta is low, is found by actual experience to be fully 15 to 20 per cent. inferior in quality to English coal, and is much disliked. A few trials of Chanda coal with small quantities have only yet been made, and the results, it is understood, show that its quality is somewhat similar to that of Bengal coal. The native manufacturers, then, have no prospect of deriving benefit from supplies of coal produced in India. Lord Salisbury's allusion, on the same occasion, to the coal field being close to the cotton, conveys another erroneous impression. In the first place, the quality of the cotton grown in the district of Hingunghat is of much too fine a description to be used with advantage by Indian spinners; and in the second place, no capital is likely to seek investment in any cotton spinning factory in that distant region where the disadvantages, with which the mills even in the Port of Bombay have to contend, in the cost of erection, in improving and replacing machinery, and in providing skilled labour, would not only be infinitely intensified, but would be supplemented with other disadvantages equally great in that no selection of other kinds of suitable Indian cotton, such as the spinners in Bombay enjoy, would be obtainable, while the spinner in the Wurdah Valley would be completely shut out from the advantage, which the Bombay spinner possesses, of being able to export his production to foreign markets when, from glut or other causes, there is no demand for it in India. Again, Lord Salisbury says that the labour in India, "as regards all delicate manipulations of the hand, is more skilful. His Lordship had here, doubtless, in view the skill for which the hand manufacturers of India were formerly so famous; but, as the statement is made with reference to the advantages which the Indian mills possess over their rivals in Lancashire, we will revert to the Report of Mr. Robertson above referred to, and we apprehend that his testimony will be accepted as that of a man of practical experience, who would not moreover, be likely to prejudice in any way the interests of English manufacturers. He says—"The capacity of the workers is disappointing. In point of skill and care, and in the amount of work which they can overtake, they are immensely inferior to the Europeans. A drawing frame head of five or six deliveries, or a single loom, will give the best idea of what is thought sufficient to tax the ability of a workman. Females are found to be irregular and troublesome, and are only employed as reelers or winders. Two are almost invariably appointed to a 40-hank reel, reeling No. 20s. or so." Again he says—"Notwithstanding all disadvantages—inferior worker, expensive coal, heavy commissions, which are levied somewhat unscrupulously, &c.—the success of the Bombay mills has been considerable, judging from the dividends paid during the last few years." After enumerating the dividends paid by some of the mills, he proceeds—"From all of them (the dividends) a very considerable abatement must be made for depreciation, which certainly ought not to be less than 7 ½ per cent, on the original cost. Both the climate and the carelessness of the workers cause a much heavier tear and wear of buildings and machinery than in England and yet little or no account is made of this in their balance-sheets." Mr. Robertson adds that "at an earlier period the mills were not successful." Their success was owing to an exceptional demand, which arose in India about three years ago for the coarser kinds of cloth and yarn. It was of short duration: the demand lasted about two years and then fell off: about 20 per cent., from the highest point which the prices of yarn attained, has been lost: the market remains in a depressed state: the production of the new mills, which the high prices ruling two years ago brought into existence, will soon, moreover, come into the market; and we apprehend, therefore, that the success referred to by Mr. Robertson has now totally disappeared, and that the state of the yarn and cloth markets in India gives no prospect of any revival.

If, then, the relative disadvantages with which the rival industries have to contend are carefully weighed, you will, we think, admit that these are much greater on the side of India, which, but for brief period above referred to, has never enjoyed the prosperity of Lancashire. The success of the Indian industry has indeed been moderate, which is also, to some extent, accounted for by the fact that more cotton is put into its production. On this point, Mr. Robertson, to whose Report we again refer, says—"The yarn spun is from No. 16 to 20 twist and from 20 to 26 weft. From 10 per cent. to 20 per cent. more twist per inch than the ordinary standard is put into it, and in some cases, no difference in this respect is made between twist and weft." Although their profits are less, the cloth turned out by Indian mills is therefore more durable, and is on that account preferred by the native consumer; and we consider it to be extremely doubtful if the consumer would be benefited, even in the smallest degree, by the repeal of the duty on the coarser goods imported from England with which the production of Indian mills competes. We are also certain that the repeal of this portion of the duty would confer little appreciable benefit on Lancashire; and the English manufacturers themselves are aware of this. The commercial greatness of England is, no doubt, largely due to its cotton manufactures, but we apprehend that their prosperity would be very little, if at all, increased by the repeal of the duty on the coarser cloths and yarns, the value of the trade in which did not, last year, exceed £900,000. The superior skill of Lancashire is better suited for the finer makes, which—although its coarser goods have, to some extent, been displaced by Indian mills—are sent out to India in annually increasing quantities.

The cry of protection is thus wholly groundless. The truth of the matter is that the Indian manufacturer is content with small profits, but the cotton lords of Manchester are not, and hence the iterated demand for the repeal of the import duty.

The Association thus concludes: "*We* protest against it, because it is calculated to retard the progress of an industry which is already of great importance to India; and we earnestly pray that you will support our protest, and that you will discountenance every effort and every measure affecting this country, having for its object, not the interests of the people of India, but the selfish advancement of a particular manufacturing interest in England." It is fortunate for India that a few European gentlemen have interested themselves in cotton manufactures here. Indians, as we have over and over said, are too weak, when they have to fight single-handed whether with Englishmen or the English Government. When the Greek meets the Greek then comes the tug of war. The people of India have truth and justice on their side, but they lack the decision and prestige of their English fellow-subjects and fellow-workers. We feel hopeful when we see Englishmen make common cause with the Indians, and there cannot be a stronger bond of union than a community of interest and feeling.

THE SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE has recorded a handsome minute regarding the Science Association. We give it *in extenso*:

"For some time past an Association for the cultivation of Science has been organized by a body of Native gentlemen at the instance of Dr. Mahendor Lal Sircar, a medical practitioner of considerable repute in Calcutta, and himself an example of the elevating effect of scientific culture. The Association consists of many members, and donations to a considerable amount, over Rs. 80,000 have been promised. There is an expectation that current subscriptions for the month, or for the year, will be received. The objects of the Association are to provide lectures of a very superior kind in the various branches of the physical sciences, especially general physics, chemistry, and geology, mainly for students who have already passed through school or college, or have otherwise attained some degree of proficiency in these respects. There would also be lectures for youths and students possessing a lesser degree of proficiency. One special object of the Institution is to encourage Native young men of talent and education to prosecute systematically scientific studies after leaving college, so as to advance to a high stage of knowledge. The several sciences would be taught with a view to their application to practical arts and uses. Expense would have to be incurred

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n remunerating the lecturers; in obtaining apparatus, instruments and books; in allowing scholarships to specially selected students; and in providing house accommodation.

2. The Association held a meeting on the 15th January ast, consisting of Native gentlemen of wealth, learning, and position, which meeting I myself attended, and a committee of management was formed. At that meeting it was resolved that the opening of the Institution should be considered as a memorial of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

3. The management of the Institution would be determined by the members of the Association, under such conditions as they might settle among themselves. It is important that the members should depend on their own independent exertions for the attainment of success; they would raise and judiciously invest their funds, and would collect current subscriptions; they would determine the subjects of the lectures, and appoint the lecturers; they would allot scholarships so far as their funds might permit.

4. The Association are, I understand, desirous of knowing what assistance the Government could or would render.

Considering that the formation of this Association constitutes an important effort by the Natives themselves to promote the cultivation of science; that the realization of so large an amount of donations as the promised would indicate munificence on the part of many Native gentlemen for the good of their countrymen; that the Institution, if successful, would serve a considerable educational purpose, and among other things would probably supply teachers for technical schools or other scientific institutions which the Government might set up in Bengal, I think that the project merits some co-operation from the Government in token of its sympathy with the good cause which the Association has at heart.

I propose, therefore, to take up an eligible building, with its premises, situated at the junction of College Street and Bow Bazaar and to make it over unfinished to the Association for occupation free of all charge for a term of years, which would be settled separately in consultation with the Committee, for the purposes as above set forth, on condition that at least Rs. 70,000 be actually obtained by donations, of which at least Rs. 50,000 must be invested by the Committee in Government securities, and that a monthly subscription of at least Rs. 100 per mensem be promised for two years. The proposal is made provisionally and conditionally upon Government being able to obtain possession of the said house and premises. In this way the Association would be spared the cost of obtaining suitable accommodation in the City of Calcutta, which is always a matter of difficulty, and would be able to devote its private resources to developing systematic instruction."

Sir Richard Temple has nobly redeemed his pledge to Dr. Mahendralal Sircar. Since his return from the Famine campaign he has evinced a most lively interest in the project. About this time last year he searched out Dr. Mahendralal Sircar in one of the *Rhotas* parties and spoke to him most kindly about it. He had been greatly impressed with the usefulness and importance of the undertaking and generously offered to help it with his patronage. Since then he wrote to Dr. Sircar a public letter, which we published at the time, giving him his powerful support by expressing his kind and favourable opinion of the project. This letter had a great moral effect upon the Native community. Those who were lukewarm, and doubted the success of the scheme, now came forward liberally, and the subscription list steadily progressed. Some misgivings were however engendered when His Honor presided at a meeting, for the establishment of a Science College as it was called, held at the same Theatre house where the Prince has been caricatured. Not that the promoters of the Science Association were jealous of the Lieutenant Governor's patronage of the other scheme: far from it; but Dr. Sircar had not been consulted in the matter at all, and yet it was announced at that meeting that the objects of the two were identical, though the subsequent disclosures have shewn that nothing could be more distinct than the objects of the two projected institutions. The two schemes however stood as rivals, and they could not but divide the sympathies of the public, and many therefore questioned the propriety of the Lieutenant Governor heading a movement, which had the appearance of dividing the Native community and tended to create a bad blood in them. That they were not mistaken was evident from the attitude assumed by the leaders of the "other Association" towards Dr. Sircar personally and his scheme generally, and observant men regretted that His Honor should have been in any way mixed up in such squabbles. Of course if there was a voluntary movement among any class of the Native community for a scientific institution with a different object, there could have been no objection, for every man had a right to his own opinion, and if any number of men thought that the good of the country, which was the common object, would be better subserved by pursuing a different course, they were quite welcome to carry out their ideas. It was at the outset given out that the projectors of the rival scheme had raised the magnificent sum of a lac and thirty thousand rupees, and with such a large sum in their pockets they had every right to propose their own terms. But the history of Rai Lutchmpat's subscription tells a different tale. That munificent gentleman did not give his money to any body else but the Government, and did not also first give it for a Science College, but had given it for the restoration of the B. A. classes of the Berhampore College, and it was at the suggestion of Government that he consented to the appropriation of his contribution to the establishment of a scientific institution. Nothing has transpired as to the other subscriptions, that is to say as to who the subscribers are, what they have subscribed, at whose instance or for what object. Such being the case the native public were taken by surprise at the move of the Lieutenant Governor and the noise made about the "other Association." Is the money really forthcoming and has it been really obtained through the instrumentality of its promoters? If the other subscriptions, supposing that they are really forthcoming, have been obtained like Rai Lutchmiput's by and through the Government, why should not the Government act independently of any clique, or why should it not strengthen the funds of the only institution, which has been recognized by the public, and with which His Honor has from the first sympathized? We do hope that His Honor will yet consider this matter. If the subscriptions have been given to the Government, it has no right to make them over to any private body, but if it has been allowed any discretion in the matter, it is meet and desirable that all available resources should be concentrated upon one institution, so as to guarantee its success. We cannot sufficiently thank Sir Richard Temple for the noble proof he has afforded of his earnestness about Dr. Sircar's Science Association, and we make no doubt that under his patronage it will both deserve and command success. We believe His Excellency the Viceroy will be asked to inaugurate the Association in the new house, and a fitter act cannot close his Lordship's wise and beneficent administration than the laying of the foundation of this Temple of Science in the capital of the Indian Empire.

THE CHOTA NAGPORE ENCUMBERED ESTATES' BILL.

EXCEPTIONAL legislation is always to be deprecated, but sometimes it is unavoidable and politically unexceptionable. The Bill under notice is a measure of this description. But it is not the first of its kind. In Bombay and Oudh such legislative remedies have been applied for the benefit of improvident landholders with great advantage. And the present Bill which is modelled upon the Bombay and Oudh Acts is calculated to prove a boon to the ignorant and extravagant landholders of Chota Nagpore. There are, however, some points in this Bill which call for notice. The Bill would have been passed last Tuesday but for the considerate interference of His Excellency the Viceroy. Nothing could be more just than the remarks made by His Excellency in the debate upon the Bill. It is provided in the Bill that the order of the Commissioner of Chota Nagpore upon the proceedings of the local officers in the management of encumbered estates shall be final. Raja Narendrakrishna hinted that in certain cases an appeal might be allowed to the Board of Revenue. Mr. Hobhouse objected to the suggestion. He said, "he was not surprized that persons who were accustomed to see everything disposed of according to the ordinary course of the law, should desire that the best assistance that could be had on such occasions should be brought in to decide the rights of their creditors. At the same time this Act was one of a rare class a very special kind of Insolvency Act passed to meet a particular state of things; and it was necessary for the proper working of it that its provisions should be carried out with due economy and with due rapidity, that the manager who took these estates in hand should not be exposed to all the costs of litigation to which the ordinary affairs of solvent people were open." He admitted that the Board had considerable advantages by sitting in Calcutta, but at the same time he observed: "An appeal from remote districts of the kind to Calcutta was attended with very considerable expense; and the various creditors of the estate would probably find the assets to which they might resort for payment considerably diminished by the increase of litigation. It seemed to him far better that the local officers should decide on these points." His Excellency the Viceroy remarked: "It must be remembered that while, for political reasons, the Government of India in this case, and in the former cases in other parts of India, had passed laws with the object of clearing estates that were encumbered from their debts, it was far from the intention of the Government in any way to interfere with the proper and legitimate rights of those persons who had lent money upon certain securities of the people who were in possession of their properties, and that in all these matters, special care must be taken, and justice must be done to the proper and legitimate claims of these persons." Nothing could be better in spirit than the above, and we may remark that it is this desire to do even-handed justice between all classes of persons, which commands the respect and admiration of the community for Lord Northbrook. His Lordship would not allow the Bill to be hastily passed and accordingly adjourned its consideration. The question of appeal raised by Raja Narendrakrishna is very important. There is an impression perhaps not altogether unfounded that the local officers of Chota Nagpur are not in a frame of mind to hold the balance of justice impartially between the indebted landlords and their creditors. We can well believe that some of these creditors are grasping and rapacious and therefore deserve no mercy, but at the same time it is necessary that justice should be done to all. The Commissioner as the head of the local executive is identified with his subordinates, who as a matter of course take their cue from their chief. When such is the case we question the good policy of making him the chief appellate authority. On the other hand the Board of Revenue breathes an atmosphere not contaminated with local prejudice or passion, and it is therefore in the best position to do substantial justice to all parties concerned. Such being the case it is highly desirable that the Board should be made the highest appellate authority. The question of expense raised by Mr. Hobhouse is quite a minor point when the interests of justice are at stake.

The next point raised by His Excellency the Viceroy was as to the rules to be made by the Commissioner for the carrying out of the law. His Excellency said that "in Clause 17, it was provided that the manager should act in conformity with rules which were passed under the Act and by Clause 19 the Commissioner was empowered to make rules consistent with the Act in all matters connected with its enforcement. He should like to know what was the nature of the rules to be laid down for the purpose of determining debts." Mr. Inglis replied: "In Oudh the rules laid down the amount of interest to be allowed, and also the manner and time in which the various creditors should be paid. He thought the rule provided for such cases; but principally the object of the provision was to enable the Commissioner to lay down rules for the purpose of determining the interest to be paid on these debts." His Excellency remarked: "It must be provided that rules which were to be framed under the Bill should be such, as the Lieutenant-Governor had pointed out, to regulate procedure coupled with some indication of the rate of interest as would not interfere with the duty of the manager as imposed by this clause, to determine the amount of debts and liabilities justly due to the creditors. He must go, as had been pointed out by Mr. Hobhouse, in cases of bankruptcy through the whole of the merits of the case without bias, and come to a conclusion as to what the liabilities were. He had no doubt the rules were so intended, and he hoped that some words would be found which would make it very clear as to how far the rules were intended to apply to the main provisions of that clause."

For our part we hold that the rules ought to be embodied in the law. These rules will be in the nature of supplementary legislation and they ought not to be left to the discretion of the Commissioners. The Council is in a better position to fix the rate of interest than the Commissioner, for it is entirely devoid of those prepos-

sessions and personal feelings to which we fear the Commissioner will fall an unconscious prey.

There is another important point which was not raised in the debate, but which is of sufficient importance to deserve the consideration of the Council. It is this that, in determining the amount of debt due to a creditor the manager shall have power to fix the sum which on the consideration of all the circumstances he may consider each creditor ought in fairness and justice to receive. And in fixing such sum, he shall not be bound by any previous agreement or judicial proceeding. It is not clear whether the judicial proceeding referred to may be quashed, by the manager, though the same may have been held previous to the passing of this Bill. We do not think it would be right to give an *ex post facto* effect to the proposed law. The manager may properly be authorised to distribute the repayment of the debt over a term of years or may reduce the rate of interest from the time the estate comes under his management. But if a decree has been passed before the law comes into force it ought not to be set aside. The effect of the new law will be that all suits relating to the encumbered estates under notice will be taken out of the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts, and that is the pith and marrow of the Bill, but to give power to the manager to quash judicial proceedings already held and perhaps ratified by the highest court in the land would be contrary to the ends of justice.

THE PRESIDENCY MAGISTRATES' BILL.

MR. WHITLEY STOKES has at last done his work. He had hitherto shirked it by making the Presidency Magistrates' Bill a pendant to the New Criminal Procedure Code; the Bill made reference to those Sections of the Code, which would apply to the Presidency towns, and left the public to find them out. This was a most inconvenient mode of legislation, and meant only one thing, the saving of trouble to the draftsman. The public protested against this perfunctory method of work and they have been heard. The present Bill is complete in itself. There are however some provisions in the Bill, which are open to serious objection. Before we notice these provisions, we desire to express our satisfaction with the decision of the Select Committee to do away with the invidious distinction between the European and Native Magistrates in the trial of European British subjects. Mr. Hope said, "the Bill kept no distinction between the powers of Native and European Magistrates over Europeans, because it was considered, as regards both these matters, that the check of the Press and the Bar would prevent irregularities which might arise in the Mufasal" At the same time the Bill gives no control to the Magistrate over the Police, because it is a large and important body and requires a separate head —a Commissioner of Police This is right and proper. The Commissioner of Police will however consider it his duty to act upon the opinions of the Magistrates in respect of the conduct of any policeman. The Bill also makes important additions regarding the record of evidence. They will secure a record of evidence while they will afford relief to the Magistrates.

The Bill is not quite clear as to the powers of Honorary Magistrates. Section 8 authorizes the local Government to appoint from time to time a sufficient number of fit persons to be Magistrates for the Presidency towns, while section 10 declares that "all existing Magistrates of Police shall be deemed Presidency Magistrates under this Act." We do not know whether the Honorary Magistrates come under this designation; if they do, then the provision is sufficient; but if they do not there ought to be a provision on this point. Otherwise the whole body of Honorary Magistrates will be swept away by a side-wind. The Bill supplies an omission, which was long felt, we mean the absence of any power in any one of the Magistrates to make rules for the conduct of business in the Magistrates' Courts. It now enacts that in every Presidency town the local Government shall appoint one of the Presidency Magistrates to be Senior Magistrate, and such Magistrate shall exercise in such town all the powers which by any law, regulation or rule, are required to be exercised by any Senior or Chief Magistrate, and shall have authority to make rules, not being inconsistent with the provisions of the Act, to regulate the conduct of business and secure uniformity of practice in the Courts of the Presidency Magistrates. This is a necessary and wholesome provision. The powers of the Presidency Magistrates are thus defined:

"Presidency Magistrates may pass the following sentences of persons convicted before them of offences which the said Magistrates are competent to try:—

"Imprisonment not exceeding the term of two years (including such solitary confinement as is authorized by law);

"Fine to the extent of one thousand rupees: Whipping.

"A Magistrate may pass any lawful sentence, combining any of the sentences which he is authorized by law to pass.

This means that the Jury trial is done away with in cases in which the Magistrate may pass a sentence of two years and a fine of Rs. 1000. We question the wisdom of this provision. Whatever may be the defects of Jury trial in the Mofussil, the same objections do not hold good in the Presidency towns. In those towns competent persons are always available to constitute a Jury, and although occasionally there has been a miscarriage of justice in cases in which the European British-subjects were arraigned for trial, still the institution as an institution has worked satisfactorily. It would be a move backwards if the system which has become historical should be now done away with in order to relieve the High Court of work, for that was the only reason assigned for the measure. On referring to the provision for appeal we find that an appeal will be allowed only in those cases in which the sentence of the Magistrate may exceed one year. Thus the summary power of the Presidency Magistrates is extended to a sentence of one year. We admit that in Calcutta the Magistrates exercise the summary jurisdiction up to a sentence for six months, and that it has worked fairly. But that is no reason that it should be further extended. It would have been consistent if an appeal had been allowed in cases in which the sentence may exceed six months, but we would prefer the Jury trial to an appeal. If the Jury trial be abolished in the cases alluded to not only would Her Majesty's subjects be deprived of a valuable safeguard of liberty, but the unfortunate persons, who may be convicted of an offence in a Police Court and sentenced to more than one year's imprisonment would be subjected to double expense in preferring an appeal. They must defend themselves twice, and therefore engage counsel twice. With regard to the provisions of appeal there will be a double process. They run as follows:

"The High Court shall fix a reasonable time within which the appellant or his counsel or authorized agent may appear, and it may reject the appeal if, on a perusal of the petition of appeal and the copy of the judgment or order appealed against, and after hearing the appellant or his Counsel or authorized agent, if he appears, it considers that there is no sufficient ground for questioning the correctness of the decision or for interfering with the sentence or order appealed against.

"Before rejecting the appeal, the Court may call for and peruse all or any part of the proceedings of the Magistrate, but shall not be bound to do so.

"In rejecting an appeal under this section, the High Court shall not enhance the sentence.

"If the High Court decide to hear the appeal, it shall cause notice to be given to the appellant and shall also give notice to the Magistrate whose judgment or order has been appealed against, who shall inform, if necessary, the public prosecutor, Government pleader, or other officer empowered by Government in that behalf, of the day on which such appeal will be heard,

"and in cases under section 88, where the High Court decides to hear the appeal, it shall also cause notice to be given to the respondent.

"The High Court' after perusing the proceedings of the Magistrate, and after hearing the appellant, his counsel or agent, if they appear, and the public prosecutor Government pleader or other officer empowered by Government or by the Magistrate in that behalf, if he appears, may alter or reverse the finding and sentence or order of such Court, and may, if it see reason to do so, enhance any punishment that has been awarded or order the appellant to be re-tried before any Magistrate or before the High Court.

"Provided that the High Court shall not inflict a greater punishment than is prescribed for the offence by the Indian Penal Code.

It will be seen from the above that there will be a double hearing, if the High Court admits an appeal, and the expense will consequently be doubled. This system cannot certainly be considered an improvement upon the present system of Jury trial.

The Bill removes the doubt, which has arisen in connection with Mr. Field's case, as to the jurisdiction of the Magistrate in respect of an offence committed in a different district but connected with an act which occurred in another district. It provides:

"When an act is an offence by reason of its relation to any other act which is also an offence, a charge of the first-mentioned offence may be inquired into and tried, either in the district in which it happened, or in the district in which the offence with which it was so connected happened.

Illustrations.

(*a*.) A charge of abetment may be inquired into and tried, either in the district in which the abetment was committed, or in the district in which the offence abetted was committed.

(*b*) A charge of receiving or retaining stolen goods may be inquired into and tried, either in the district in which the goods were stolen, or in any district in which any of them were at any time dishonestly received or retained.

(*c*.) A charge of wrongfully concealing a person known to have been kidnapped may be inquired into and tried in the district in which the wrongful concealing, or in the district in which the kidnapping took place.

(*d*) A, B, C, and others combine together to abet the waging of war against the Queen. Any of the conspirators may be tried in any district in which acts were done by any one of the persons with whom he or they conspired, in pursuance of the original concerted plan and with reference to the common object."

There are other points in the Bill, which we reserve for a future issue.

[COMMUNICATED.]

THE RENT QUESTION.

III.

THE LAND TENURES.—*(Continued.)*

LET US next consider the effects of Act X of 1859 upon our land-tenures. Here too we find the three kinds of tenure, under sections III, VI and VII respectively. Besides the permanent tenures coming under Section III there are also those which fall within Section XV of the old, and Section XVI of the new law. There may or may not be some difference between these as regards the right of transfer, with which we have not much to do, but they all bear the distinguishing marks of our class no. 1, being tenable for ever and at an invariable rent. One thing however we might observe in passing, that section III, if rightly viewed, does not do any great violence to the land tenures actually existing in this country. For after all it simply lays down that when any individual ryot happens to have held his land at an unvaried rent from the year 1790 i. e. for a period of nearly 70 years, counting up to 1859 the tenure shall be treated as a permanent one. This in substance may be called a rule of irrebuttable presumption. People do not seem to quarrel much about this, but with the next section (IV) which gives a further stretch to the principle, by declaring that payment of a uniform rent for 20 years consecutively shall give rise to the presumption that the uniform payment extends back till 1790. However this may be rebutted by the zemindar.

We pass on next to Section VI which, as we read it, provides in the first place that when a landlord omits to exercise his right of re-entry upon any tenanted land for a period of 12 years, he shall (except in the case of *nij jote* lands &c.,) be barred from doing so against the individual tenant or his heirs. 2ndly, it also provides that under the circumstance mentioned, the successors of the landlord, whoever they may be shall be equally barred. Section VII lays down that this consequence may be avoided by an express provision made by the landlord with his tenant. We identify the occupancy ryots with those whom we call the hereditary ryots; non-occupance ryots holding for less than 12 years as well as those who are governed by express stipulations of the kind referred to in section VII come under our class no. 3 of ejectable tenants.

Section VI is often regarded as a palpable encroachment upon the vested rights of the zemindar; but such cannot be the opinion of those who believe in the pre-existence of what we have called, heritable tenures. The only thing new about it was the limitation of 12 years. The section serves no doubt to convert a tenant who might otherwise be ejectable, into a hereditary tenant as soon as he has occupied for the specified period. But at the same time it can not be overlooked that a tenant who might otherwise have acquired (we mean without a pattah) the right of hereditary succession from the commencement of his tenancy has been by this section restricted to the status of a mere tenant-at-will unless he is suffered to acquire that right after a lapse of 12 years.

Even this change would not materially affect a Bengal zemindar's interests such as they ordinarily are, unless the section serves to limit his right to the rent receivable from the class of tenures under notice.

Now the law provides that from an ejectable tenant the zemindar may take any amount of rent but from a hereditary or occupancy ryot he can claim only *a fair and equitable rate*. We have said before that in point of fact our zemindars do not care to rack-rent their lands. They would be satisfied with what is called "the prevailing rate" even from ejectable ryots. So long therefore as matters continued in this state, neither party would suffer from

the effects of sections VI and VII. But the tendency is palpably towards an unrestricted liberty in the zemindar to rack-rent all ryots who can not claim the protection of sections III or VI. To this extent therefore sections VI and VII are injurious to the interests of the tenant class.

With regard to the hereditary or occupancy ryot, everything has been left to turn upon the meaning to be attached to the expressions' "fair and equitable rate." If that does *not* fall short of what the zemindars want as rent, they would not mind the innovation caused by the law. We are all aware that the present rent difficulty really signifies that they did not mind the innovation until the rent question arose. Be this as it may we are at this point fairly entitled to observe that in the matter of rent the law evidently lacks the precision with which an occupant ryot has been distinguished from a non-occupant one.

We turn next to the right of transfer in connection with the right of occupancy. Before the rent difficulty arose, the zemindars generally speaking did not feel any necessity to interfere with the transfer of heritable or occupancy rights provided they were paid the usual fee or any bonus that might be agreed upon, for the mutation of names. They had of course the right to refuse registry, but they did not care to harass any ryot about it, unless they apprehended any substantial injury. Hence the question as to the transferable nature of occupancy rights has become involved with one of custom. But the legal question has after some ups and downs at last been decided in favor of the zemindars. The Full Bench case of Nurendronarain Roy (dated 22nd April 1874) has finally laid it down that "a right of occupancy which a ryot has under Act VIII (B.C.) of 1869, Section VI is not transferable. When any ryot sells his holding, his right of occupancy ceases and it can not protect the purchaser against ejectment." (22 W. R. pp. 22-27). The plea of custom it raised would of course entail with it the onus of proof and would thereby be materially weakened.

So far therefore as the Law is concerned, the growth of those whom we have called the hereditary ryots becomes confined only or chiefly to the fact of hereditary succession. Here we have to take into account the bearing of the law of ejectment in regard to these tenures.

According to clause 7 Section XV Regulation VII of 1799 a defaulting ryot could be ousted by the zemindar of his own motion. Section XXI of Act X and XXII of the current law requires the zemindar to sue the defaulter for ejectment, and the tenant is also by certain other Sections given an opportunity of paying off his dues within 15 days of the execution of a decree for arrears against him. Thus the effect of the law seems to be this:—If the zemindars suffer in their pockets from the distinction introduced between ejectable and heritable tenures, it will be their interest to cut short the number of heritable and to increase the number of ejectable tenures. And for this end what they have got to do is to throw obstacles in the way of heretable interests being extended by transfer and to sue for ejectment whenever the tenants fall into arrears. This last course will be doubly efficacious: it will either get them their arrears speedily paid up or gain them the whole of the advantages allowed by law in the matter of rent, to occupant ryots over non-occupant and ejectable ryots.

As we do not think that the leniency of judges can long withstand the effect of a clearly defined law, we do not believe that the present distress of the zemindars will be lasting. Everything however will depend upon the limits which has been or may be put to the question of rent-rates. If the law becomes too tight for the zemindars, they will doubtless suffer and the ryots will benefit. But we see looming in the future another turn of the wheel which we apprehend will be far more serious and lasting than any that has hitherto occured, unless the existing law is materially improved.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE LEARN that a telegram has been received from Lord Lytton to the effect that his Lordship will probably arrive at Bombay on the 7th April. His Lordship may be expected in Calcutta by the 12th, and Lord Northbrook will probably leave for Europe on the 15th idem.

THE MORNING PAPERS publish the following telegram:

London, 24th February.—TO-DAY' replying to a deputation of merchants and others whose interests lie in the cotton districts, the Marquis of Salisbury said that the Indian Government for months past had been instructed to prepare a way for a gradual abolition of the present import duties on manufactured cotton goods and yarns; and also to fix a period for their final and entire abolition. If the finances of India were fortunate, he hoped the object which the deputation had in view would be speedily attained. The Marquis said he was not prepared to recommend a new tax for India

We can well understand that having coquetted with Manchester so openly the Marquis of Salisbury could not give any other reply than what he gave to the Deputation. But there is no fear of the repeal of the import duties immediately or the imposition of any new tax to propitiate Manchester.

WE ARE sincerely sorry to record the death of Mr. Lobb, Principal of the Kishnagur College. In him the Education Department has lost an able and devoted officer, the community a close and vigorous thinker, and the people of this country an uncompromising and warm friend. He used to take a great interest in the native press, and not unfrequently lent his valuable advice and aid in conducting Indian thought through right channels. He leaves a void which will not be easily filled up.

WE HAVE received a petition to Government from the translators attached to the District Courts praying for the amelioration of their condition. While steps have been taken to better the position and prospects of other branches of the ministerial service, these officers alone have been left uncared-for. The importance of the translators as a part of the judicial machinery cannot be overrated. On their fidelity depends the purity of the administration of justice by the District Courts, and it is therefore essential that they should be placed above temptation. Formerly they were eligible to judicial appointments. But that door of preferment has been now shut against them. We do hope that due consideration will be given by Government to their memorial.

WE CONGRTULATE Sir Stuart Hogg on the position he took at the last meeting of the Calcutta Justices. He doubtless feels the anomaly of his situation, firstly as a servant of Government, and secondly as the representative of the corporation. It was a pity that he assumed charge of a bill, to the principle of which he is so strongly opposed, and which he has had the manliness to condemn in public as well as in private. He offered no opposition to the resolution of the Justices to apply to the Bengal Council to be heard by Counsel, though he gave it as his opinion that the same object could be attained by a memorial. We believe he has no intention to work under the new system and will go home if the Bill passes. If such should be the case, that would be the best form of demonstration he could make after going the length he has done, and we hope it will have due effect upon Sir Richard Temple. Our morning contemporaries do injustice to Sir Stuart Hogg when they fasten upon him the responsibility of the Bill. He is certainly to blame for taking charge of it when he does not approve of its principle, and as a man of honorable and independent feeling he ought to have boldly said to his master that he would have nothing to do with it. He would however be consistent if he should refuse to act under the new system. He has been sufficiently loyal to Government—he may well claim to be loyal to his conscience.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a copy of Messrs. Thacker Spink and Co's Directory for 1876. Although it professes to be a Calcutta Directory, it embraces matters regarding all important parts of India. The fund of information given is so vast and varied that the public cannot feel sufficiently thankful to the enterprising publishers. There is a complete list of postal and telegraph stations, and railway stations. The alphabetical list has been considerably enlarged.

WE HAVE before us the papers of a case, which shows how high-handed our officers sometimes are. It appears that Beel Datbhanga is a part of certain permanently-settled estates in pergunnas Buran, Sarparaspur, in the district of 24-Pergunnahs, that it was resumed by Government in 1846, and temporarily settled under Regulation II. of 1819 with the well-known Munshis of Taki in 1853 at an annual jumma of 8 annas per biga of 55 yards, and that a permanent settlement was concluded with the zemindars at a jumma of 5 annas per biga of 40 yards. At the time of the permanent settlement in 1860 it was considered necessary that a khal should be excavated for draining the waters of the Beel and by an Ekrar dated 7th March 1860, corresponding with the 28th Falgoon 1267 B. S. it was agreed—

(*a*). That the proprietors should supply the Collector with funds wherewith to excavate the khal, which were estimated in the proportion of their respective interests in the mehal.

(*b*). That in the event of any of the proprietors not paying their shares of the money according to the Kistibundhi contained in that Ekrar as noted in the margin Government would be empowered to realise the same according to the provisions of Act XI of 1859 like any other money due to Government.

This contract, which was signed by six out of the 53 proprietors, contained the two following conditions:

(*c*). That the six Contractors, after receiving from the Collector the estimated money which was to be realized by Government from the proprietors under the preceding clause of the Agreement, should complete a 10 annas portion of the work in 1267 B. S., a 3 annas portion in 1268 and the remainder in 1269 B. S.

(*d*). That if the six Contractors defaulted or neglected to perform the work within the period stipulated and in the manner as above, Government shall have power to cancel the settlement which was concluded with all the proprietors.

The above agreement was executed by the mooktears of the six proprietors, who having defaulted in opening the khal the permanent settlement of the mehal made with fifty three proprietors has been cancelled! Now the question arises whether the other proprietors, who were not parties with the six to the agreement, could be held bound by it. The aggrieved proprietors have petitioned the Lieutenant Governor on the subject, and we hope justice will be done to them.

WHO IS Mr. Kilby, the newly appointed Deputy Legal Remembrancer on Rs. 1,500 a month? This question has been put to us from several quarters. All that we have heard of him is that he was a Deputy Magistrate, has qualified himself as a Barrister, and is a friend of Mr. Mangles, Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Judicial Department. In the first place we do not know what necessity there was for creating this appointment, but it was given out that it would be conferred upon some Native pleader, particularly as natives have shewn a peculiar aptitude for law. A native gentleman of great eminence as a lawyer once held the office of Legal Remembrancer, and yet no native is found qualified for the post of Deputy Legal Remembrancer! Has this appointment been made quite in accordance with the despatch of the Duke of Argyll, in which it was laid down that the natives have a preferential claim to the uncovenanted service, if they are found otherwise qualified?

ON WEDNESDAY LAST His Honor the Lieutenant Governor delivered the President's address to the Social Science Association. The meeting was not largely attended as the hour appointed was not quite convenient to all. His Honor spoke for nearly an hour and a quarter. He glanced over the social condition of the people, and indicated the different fields of enquiry which lay open to the student of social science in this country. He justly laid stress upon the value of statistics to the elucidation of social problems. He said:

"As regards the materials for the work of the Association, I must first of all remind you that the collection of statistics is the back-bone, literally, the very backbone of the knowledge with which the Association has to work. There exists frequently, a prejudice against statistics and the collection of dry figures, but, nevertheless, you may depend upon it, that without collection and collation of figures of this kind it would be impossible for an Association of this kind to work. But what is really wanted besides the collection of figures is an intelligent appreciation of them. Figures are often so repulsive to the ordinary mind, that they pass almost without being heeded, notwithstanding that they are the basis of all our knowledge. Well for the correct and intelligent appreciation of figures an Association of this kind is peculiarly useful. It is when you have minds of many persons who have an unselfish interest in the subject, and a fair love of the study and a firm regard for the welfare

of their fellow-creatures, I say it is when you have the thoughts of these persons directed to the understanding of the figures, that really valuable results are attained. Therefore it is that the work of such an association as this is so peculiarly welcome to all who are interested in the welfare of the country.

This is exactly the function of the Social Science Association, but unfortunately the members of the Association do not seem to appreciate it. We hope the generous interest His Honor is taking in the welfare of the Association will revivify the almost dead energies of its members. But its usefulness would be at once destroyed if it should allow itself to be converted into a political club. We are told that the Rev. K. M. Banerjea, the hoary-headed political padri, made an exhibition of himself by wantonly attacking the opponents of the Calcutta Municipal Bill in proposing thanks to His Honor. We are surprised to learn that His Honor the President did not at once call him to order. Perhaps the senior members of the Association might remember that the institution very nearly escaped being nipped in the bud at the outset, because there was an attempt made to give it a political character. By the bye the reporters have suppressed the political padri by not reproducing his speech.

WE ARE SORRY to learn that the National Theatre Company in seeking to represent the popular feeling, which we admit is bitter, regarding the invitation of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales by Babu Juggadanund Mookerjea to meet zenana ladies in his house should have introduced H. R. H. in the farce enacted on board their stage. To say the least it was not in good taste. We have not seen the farce, and cannot say anything about its character or merits, but we have been told that it was quite a scandal, and the Commissioner of Police we are of opinion was quite right in interfering. The result of his interference was that the characters were changed, Gajadanund was converted into Hunnuman, and the farce, as we see it stated, went on without any obscenity.

THE BEHAR HERALD understands that "the High Court has, on the application of the Magistrate, transferred the Patna Murder Case to the Sessions Court, at Arrah without even calling on the defendants to show cause why they should not be deprived of the right to be tried by Jury. The only ground of this strange proceeding is we are told, the Magistrate's fear that the Jury might acquit. This casts an unmerited reflection on the respectable Natives and Europeans who are on the list of Jurors. But if they could not be trusted why was it not left to Mr. Grey to try the case with assessors? The consequence will be, the whole Patna Bar and some hundred witnesses, mostly respectable persons, will be dragged to Arrah, perhaps at the expense of the poor prisoners." Referring to this case our contemporary makes the following pertinent remarks on the comparative merits of trial by jury and assessors respectively:

"We have been at some pains to examine the figures of the criminal trials during the year 1874, as published in the Bengal Administration Report, and we find that out of 436 cases tried by jury, the Sessions judges approved of 406 verdicts; in 29 cases only the judges differed from such verdicts, and these cases were referred to the High Court; what was the ultimate result of these cases we cannot say; but even assuming that the High Court concurred with the judges in these 29 cases, we make out from the abovementioned figures that the per centage of cases, in which the judges differed from the jury was only 6.6; on the other hand, the number of cases tried with assessors, was 1661, out of these, the judge agreed with the assessors in 1494 and differed from them in 155 cases *i. e.*, the percentage of cases in which the judges differed from the assessors is 9. 2. Therefore if the concurrence of opinion between the Judge, and Jury or Assessors be taken as the standard of our judgment, it follows, that trial by jury subserves the purposes of justice better than trial with assessors."

We concur.

THE CRIMINAL TRIBES ACT will be extended to Bengal. In introducing a Bill for the extension of the Act, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor said, "there were certain tribes in the Provinces under the Government of Bengal who lived by thieving, and whose social condition was in several respects a disgrace—he could not use a milder expression—to a civilized community and indirectly a discredit on the Government that tolerated it, if indeed it were tolerated. Well, as the Council knew, it was much more easy to describe an evil than to provide remedies for it, and he was not sure even that a perfect remedy could be provided. As all events, it seemed incumbent upon them to do what they could for the reclamation of these criminal people and trust to Providence for the result. The two particular tribes they had under notice were the Mugheya Domes of Bihar and the Bedyas of Eastern and Central Bengal. The Mugheya Domes were not only a nuisance to the well-disposed inhabitants, but were in several respects a dangerous class. The Bedyas were not so dangerous, but were of a thieving, predatory and wandering disposition." We are always opposed to exceptional legislation, but if the Act be carried out with discretion and judgment, it may prove beneficial. There is however one provision in the Act, which is highly objectionable, we mean the requiring the landholders and others to give information. The Police alone should be made responsible for ferretting out the criminals.

HIS HIGHNESS the Maharaja of Benares made the following remarks on the Native Coinage Bill:

"It was mentioned in the statement of reasons for introducing this Bill, that it would be naturally unpleasant to the Chiefs of India to give up their privilege of coining, and provision had accordingly been made in the Bill to remove this feeling. In his opinion also this important matter was deserving of greater consideration, and he hoped that the Select Committee would give their best attention to it. It would perhaps be better that, instead of Government going to the trouble of striking coins in its own mint, it should hold Native States responsible for the correctness of their standard of value and weight; or another plan would be, that the weight and value of such coins, as compared with British rupees, should be tested and published. They would then circulate easily and without loss; and the object of the Bill would thus be preserved, and no other ideas would arise in Native States.

His Highness the Maharajah of Vizianagram said:

"The establishment of a uniform coinage throughout India would give great facilities to trade, and would also remove serious inconvenience and loss, both to the public and the State. The provisions prescribed in the Bill would, he hoped, remove the objections made by several Native States to resign the privilege of issuing coin themselves. At the same time he hoped that the Select Committee, in considering the Bill, would bear in mind that the power of coining money had been enjoyed by Native States from a remote period."

The Bill is a permissive measure and we do not therefore see any objection to it.

UNLIKE its Bengal prototype the Madras Chamber of Commerce takes interest in municipal matters of the town. We have before us the correspondence between the Madras Chamber of Commerce and the local Government on the subject of the local Municipal Bill. The Chamber says:

"It cannot be unknown to the Government that the financial administration of the Municipality is regarded by the bulk of rate-payers with grave suspicion. It is commonly supposed that the system of collection is defective, and admits of fraudulent misappropriation which it is difficult to trace; it is believed that the attempts to recover rates long in arrears, or to enforce payment by persons who have been long overlooked, are of a feeble description, and it is suspected that there is generally speaking, an absence among many of the subordinates of the Municipality of business habits that are essential to success and thrift in the expenditure of large sums of money. The Commission has at present the advantage of being presided over by a gentleman in whom the Chamber, in common with the public, repose every confidence, but it is notorious that the duties of the President are far too onerous to allow of his habitually exercising that severe control of detail, or guarding against petty larcenies and petty leakages, that is felt to be necessary for the protection of rate-payers against unnecessary taxation. It is true he is assisted in the discharge of his duties by a large body of Commissioners who are good enough to give their time gratuitously for the benefit of the public; but considerable as this body numerically is, it is believed to fail in checking abuses that are alleged to exist. It is feared that while, on the one hand, a number of people liable to taxation systematically evade the payment of rates or are systematically overlooked by the collectors, the expenditure, on the other hand, of the revenue that is raised is conducted in a loose way not unfavourable to malversation.

The feeling that an increase of taxes will mean but an opening wider of the door for fraud and extravagance is natural under the circumstances, and the Chamber therefore, as a public body largely interested in the welfare of the city, appeal to His Grace the Governor in Council to postpone further action with the new Municipal Bill until the inquiry into the present working of the Municipality, which is called for to allay public discontent, has been held by an independent Committee approved by the Government and having the confidence of the rate-payers.

I am further to ask permission to express the Chamber's conviction that the proposal contained in the Bill to enhance the municipal revenue by the introduction of an octroi is not consonant with modern ideas of wise legislation, and is repugnant to the axioms of the most enlightened politico-economists. The Chamber are not so credulous as to imagine for one moment that the octroi proposed would be so admirably levied as to leave no opportunity of smuggling, rather do they feel convinced that, with innumerable roads and paths leading from the outlying country into the town, it will be systematically evaded, and a good deal of demoralization be induced by people being strongly tempted to do what they find it both easy and profitable, however wrong, to do with approximate impunity.

It is observed that the Bill contemplates the raising of three lakhs more of revenue to enable the Municipality to "fulfil present purposes and provide effective drainage." Assuming that the completion of the Water-supply Works and the Commencement of the Harbour leave the Government no alternative but to decide upon having the city thoroughly drained in accordance with modern plans, the Chamber request me to say that, in their opinion, the charge for so costly a scheme as that which it is understood the Government have resolved to adopt should be borne by the Imperial rather than by the Local Municipal Exchequer. The city of Bombay has been beautified by a number of public buildings, which, not Bombay exclusively, but the whole of India paid for; Simla it is stated, is to be rendered a safe residence for the Government of India by an expenditure of ten lakhs, which, not Simla exclusively, but the whole of India will provide; and Madras may fairly ask the strong recommendations of the Army Sanitary Commission for the drainage of this city in view to the protection of the health of English soldiers in garrison—a recommendation which has doubtless prompted the decision of the Secretary of State that the town should be drained—may be complied with by regarding the work as one of an Imperial nature which the circumstances of this city require should be defrayed out of the Imperial revenues.

The Government has returned the following reply:

"The Governor in Council does not doubt that defects exist at present in the realization of the Municipal taxes, and this is not disputed by the Municipality itself, as will be evident from the letter of the Acting President, dated 8th January 1876 No. 609, of which copy is enclosed for the Chamber's information, from which also the imperative necessity for securing additional income to that now collected is also apparent, as the Municipality are unable to discharge the current interest on the Water Supply loan. The Government, however, conceive that full information on this subject is afforded by the reports of the Reorganization Sub-Committee of the Municipal Commission and of the Committee appointed by Government to revise the Municipal Acts, copies of which are forwarded for the information of the Chamber, and the Governor in Council is convinced that neither improved collection of existing Rates and Taxes, nor improved administration of municipal matters will suffice to produce such an increase of means as will provide adequately for the fulfilment of municipal purposes. Assuming, however, that the more sanguine view of the possibilities of the case may be justified, I am to point out to the Chamber that all the powers of taxation provided by the Bill are permissive and that if any one or more of the several sources can be made adequately productive, there is nothing whatever in the Bill to require the imposition of superfluous taxation while it rests with the Commissioners to select such method of taxation as may be likely to prove least inconvenient to the tax-payers.

The imperative necessity for directing immediate attention to the drainage of the town in view to its material improvement is proved to conviction by the accompanying report of the Sanitary Commissioner showing that notwithstanding the naturally favourable position of the town, the mortality is steadily increasing and that on the average of the last five years it has reached the extreme rate of 354 per mille per annum, notwithstanding comparative immunity from the ravages of cholera during much of that period. Judging from experience in other parts of India the Government are of opinion that Town duties are likely to prove the least oppressive and most acceptable method of raising the necessary additional funds for this purpose and to make the Municipality solvent, the tax itself being one far more generally adopted by Municipalities throughout India than the Chamber seem to be aware and said, to be quite the most popular form of taxation.

The several points raised in the Chamber's letter regarding methods of taxation and assessment, collection, improvement and employment of the taxes are all fit subjects for inquiry by the Select Committee, to whom the Government propose that the measure under consideration shall in due course be referred and to which your letter under reply will be communicated.

The Government has simply evaded the questions put by the Chamber.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The *Shomeprokash* has an article headed "Sir Richard Temple and the Indian League." We give a free translation of the article. We once heard a story of a *Sunnasi* (a Hindu Fakir) having picked up a gold coin. The coin in consequence of its being long buried under the earth had become disfigured and colored with verdigres. The *Sunnasi* on finding it took it to a goldsmith of the name of Kalla Sekra, and asked him to test it. Kalla at once identified the coin but in order to throw dust into the eyes of the *Sunnasi* had recourse to a stratagem. He hid the gold coin and throwing another coin of a different metal into his crucible fell at the feet of the *Sunnasi* and offered him prayers and salutations, saying "Lord who thou mayest be. You have brought one kind of coin, it was transformed into another as soon as it come into contact with heat. Such a change never occurs." The *Sunnasi's* head was turned. In his rounds to the homes of people for charity, his pride and haughty demeanor surprised every body. If any person annoyed at the man's deportment presumed to ask who he was, the querist was indignantly referred to Kalla Sekra with the words "ask Kalla who I am." We observe that the new society of the name of the Indian League labors under a delusion like the *Sunnasi*. They have transformed Sir Richard Temple into the character of Kalla Sekra. But Sir Richard is a shrewder man than our goldsmith. He has to effect his own purpose had recourse to the support of the League, his partiality for the League and his commendations upon it are to be traced to the same cause. This has quite deceived the League. It no longer shews its former humble attitude, it no longer appears with a dejected mien for fear of a disclosure of its antecedents, it no longer shews the patience and forbearance of mendicants. We observe in it new signs of pride and hauteur, it brags and boasts. Towards the innocent unpretending and unsuspecting amongst the genteel classes it is practising the blandishing arts of the giantess Putana; and if it is asked who it is,—it triumphantly points to Sir Richard Temple. We trust the Lieutenant Governor will pardon our presumption. His want of justice and consideration has compelled us to liken him to Kalla Sekra of the Indian League.

Hitherto we were under the impression that the cripple only have recourse to a crutch. But Sir Richard is not a cripple and why has he then recourse to the crutch of the Indian League? We hear it as a rumour that the meeting of the 12th instant at the Town Hall was got up at his instigation. Does His Honor mean to defeat the citizens of Calcutta with the aid of the League? If it be so there cannot be a greater mistake. And what is the conduct of the League? Have they set themselves up as a body to act as second fiddlers to Sir Richard Temple? We predict that if the members of the Indian League do not speedily sever their connection with the Lieutenant Governor the same causes which have contributed to their aggrandizement will also hasten their downfall. All the attraction which the League possesses is because it proposes to supply the desideratum of an independent association which shall be the mouth-piece of the middle classes, if the League parts with that independence and individuality they will at no distant date come to an end.

We again enquire of Sir Richard Temple—does he really wish well of the people of this country? If it is asked why we put such a question, our answer is that it has become difficult to guess his motives from his acts, many take him for an insincere and artful politician. The way in which he has been trying to impose upon the people of Calcutta by the Municipal Bill does not make the designation "insincere" either unjust or unreasonable. If he earnestly means well of this country let him give up the scheme of dividing the people into factions. It is productive of no good but great mischief. If he wants to leave a temple of fame there are many ways for it. The Zoological Garden, which owes its existence to him, the Art Gallery which he is creating and the school for practical science, to the maintenance of which he has held out hopes—any one of these is calculated to be for him a monument of imperishable fame. If any thing further may be wanting to complete his fame that might have been gained by conferring upon the citizens of Calcutta full independent powers of self-government—and it would have transmitted his good name from generation to generation. But as it is he does not fully comprehend his position. To see his own scheme accomplished he created a faction among men of Dr. Sircar's party; and to keep Sir Stuart Hogg in countenance he has created a faction amongst the denizens of Calcutta. He thinks that rather than abandon an officer of Sir Stuart's standing it is preferable to deprive the whole population of Calcutta of their Municipal Liberty.

The *Sahachar* in referring to the Bill for the compulsory registration of possessory titles suggests that advantage should be taken of this legislation to compel Zemindars to register the names of under tenure holders in their books. Cases have occurred, he says, in which rightful co-sharers have been dispossessed of their shares because their parents who held jointly with other brothers had the name of the eldest of those brothers registered in the Zemindar's *serishta*.

Referring to Sir Richard Temple's complimentary notice of the Vernacular Press in his minute on the Bengal Administration Report of 1874-75 the *Bharat Sungskaruk* says that if Sir Richard is convinced of the loyalty of the Vernacular Press let him show his confidence by renewing the official publication of its opinions. The discontinuance of this publication has done it a material injury.

The *Rajshye Samachar* says that there is one remedy left for counteracting the intrigues of Manchester for ruining the cotton manufactures of India and that is for the owners of mills to sell their produce at cost price and for the people to combine and buy them even at a pecuniary sacrifice. This will maintain the new manufacture and save the credit of India.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P
His Highness Sir Salar Jung Bahadur G. C. S. I.	13	4	0
The Executive Engineer, Huldebaree	12	8	0
Moulvie Roheem Khan, Lahore	13	4	0
Bombay Royal Asiatic Society	13	4	0
Baboo Kally Prosunno Mookerjee, Baraset	13	4	0
„ Jogeshwn Ghose, Hooghly	13	4	0
Baboo Procash Chunder Dutt, Cachar	13	4	0
„ Juggut chunder Chuckerbutty, Dinagepore.	3	5	0
„ Luchmun Pershad, Morar	1	10	0
„ Dwarka Nath Ghose, Shatogoona	6	10	0
„ Koylash Chunder Chowdry, Denan	6	10	0
„ Mutty Lall Roy, Jehanabad	10	0	0
„ Mohendro Narain Chuckerbutty, Dantun	15	0	0
„ Anandmoy Moitra, Santipore	13	4	0

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*February* 23, 1876.

GENERAL.—*The 16th February* 1876.—Shah Mohamed Azim-Sub-Deputy Collector at Banka, Bhagulpore, is allowed leave without pay for one month, under Section 9, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 23rd December 1875.

Mr. Cecil Michael Wilford Brett, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Pubna, is appointed to have charge of the Serajgunge Division of that district.

Mr. John Revans Hallett, M. A., C. S, reported his arrival in Calcutta on his return from furlough on the afternoon of the 6th instant.

The 18th February.—1876.—Moonshee Kasturi Lal, Sub-Deputy Collector, employed under the Irrigation Department, is vested with the powers of a Deputy Collector under Act V (B.C.) of 1875, in the district of Midnapore.

Mr. W. C. Taylor, Deputy Collector and Settlement Officer, on special duty in the Khoorda sub-division of the Pooree district, is appointed to be a Superintendent of Survey under Act V (B.C.) of 1875, and is vested with the powers of a Collector under that Act.

The services of Mr. Francis Richard Cockerell, Commissioner of the Rajshahye and Cooch Behar Division, are placed at the disposal of the Government of India in the Legislative Department, with effect from the 14th instant.

Lord Henry Ulick Browne, Commissioner of the Presidency Division, is appointed to be Commissioner of the Rajshahye and Cooch Behar Division during the absence, on duty of Mr. F. R. Cockerell, or until further orders.

Mr. Charles Thomas Buckland, Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, is appointed to be Commissioner of the Presidency Division during the absence, on duty, of Lord H. Ulick Browne, or until further orders. Mr. Buckland will also retain charge of the Burdwan Division until relieved by Mr. H. A. Cockerell.

Mr. Horace Abel Cockerell, Commissioner of the Dacca Division, is appointed to be Commissioner of the Burdwan Division during the absence, on duty, of Mr. C. T. Buckland, or until further orders.

Mr. Frederick Barnes Peacock, C. S, on leave, is appointed to act as Commissioner of the Dacca Division during the absence, on duty, of Mr. H. A. Cockerell, or until further orders.

The following Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors are transferred to the districts mentioned against their respective names, viz.—

Moulvi Abdool Kurreem, from Dacca to Fureedpore.

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Chuckerbutty, from Fureedpore to Tipperah.

Baboo Rakhal Das Mookerjee, from Tipperah to Dacca.

Moulvi Mohamed, from Fureedpore to Dacca.

The 19th February 1876.—The Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India has been pleased to grant an extension of furlough for six months to Mr. James Sutherland Drummond, of the Bengal Civil Service.

The 21st February 1876.—Mr. Edward Augustus Bradbury, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Sewan Division of the Saran District, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of the 1870, for the purpose of acquiring lands for sub-divisional buildings at Gopalgunge, in that district.

Syed Amir Hossein, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Patna, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870, for acquiring lands for public purposes in that district.

Baboo Jodu Nath Chowdry, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Backergunge, on leave, is transferred to Dacca.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. Burn, Senior Captain of the Behar Mounted Volunteer Rifles, is allowed furlough to Europe for twenty months, with effect from the 20th March next.

Mr. Edward Maxwel Reily, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Jamooe Division of the Monghyr district, is appointed to be manager of the zemindaries of the minor Rajah of Cooch Behar.

Mr. Samuel Charles Hampton, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rungpore on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Jamooe Division of the Monghyr district.

Mr. William Robert Miller, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Dacca, is transferred to Shahabad.

Mr. G. C. Kiby, Barrister-at-law, is appointed, on probation, as Deputy-Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs under the Government of Bengal.

The 22nd February, 1876.—Mr. Herbert John Reynolds, Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, is allowed leave for one month, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 3rd March 1876.

Mr. Loftus Richard Tottenham, Officiating District and Sessions Judge of Midnapore, is appointed to be District and Sessions Judge of that district.

The following promotions are made in the Bengal Educational Service, with effect from the date of Mr. W. S. Atkinson's death:—

To the First Class.

Mr. R. Thwaytes, M. A., Principal, Hooghly College.

To the Second Class.

„ S. Lobb, M. A., Principal, Kishnaghur College, on furlough.

To the Third Class,

„ A. W. Garrett, Officiating Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle.

Mr. Robert Parry, Professor, Presidency College, is appointed to act in the Third Class of the Bengal Educational Service, with effect from the date of Mr. W. G. Willson's death.

Surgeon Edward Lawrie, Resident Surgeon of the Medical College Hospital, is appointed, in addition to his other duties, to act as Professor of Physiology in the Medical College during the absence, on furlough, of Surgeon-Major J. Ewart, or until further orders.

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